204

Map 1 64 MR 3

OF THOSE PARTS OF THE RANCHO

LA BALLONA

IN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY CALIFORNIA.

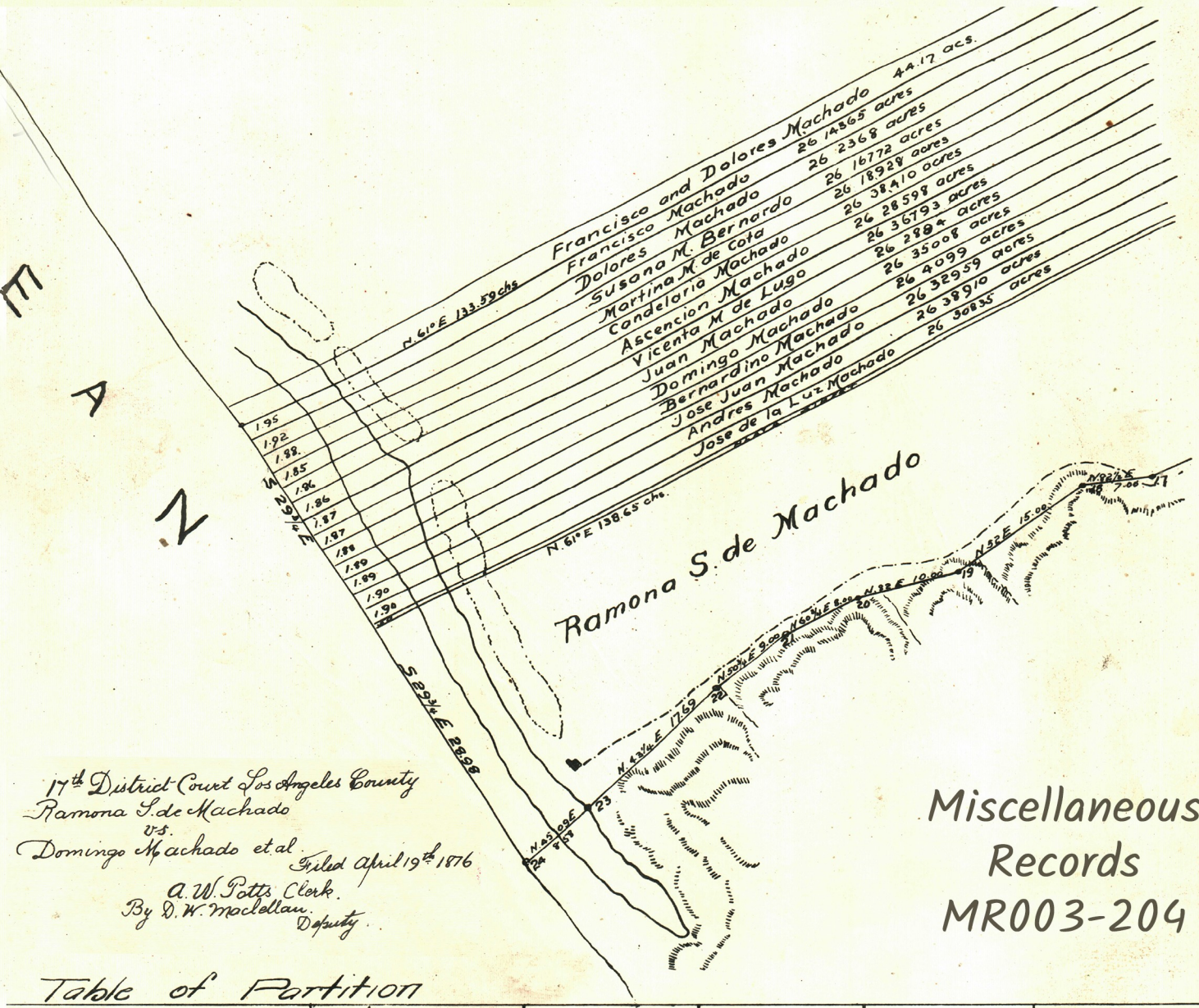
C.F.64

which in the suit of John D Young et al vs. Ygnacio Machado et al No 965 of the register of actions were allotted to the Heirs of Augustin Machado dec'd by Decree of the District Court of the 1st Judicial District Cal. of 14 December 1868

Showing

the partition of said lands made in the suit of Ramona S de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al. in the District Court of the 17 Judicial District, California by Geo. Hansen sole referee of partition appointed by the decree of said District Court of October 11th 1875.

SCALE OF ONE INCH TO 10 CH's. TRUE COURSES. VAR 14°30' E. ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND DRAUGHTSMAN. ALFRED SOLANO.



17th District Court Los Angeles County
Ramona S. de Machado
vs.
Domingo Machado et al. Filed April 19th 1876
A. W. Potts Clerk.
By D. W. Mcclellan. Deputy.

Table of Partition

Miscellaneous Records MR003-204

Internal Research Memo: Rancho La Ballona Survey, Partition, and Land-Classification Disputes

Internal-Research-Memo-Rancho-La-Ballona-DIST-v1-67.md — Rev. v1.67 — August 14, 2026 — Distribution Copy

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Distribution-copy notice: this is a distribution copy of Revision v1.67 with the production/version history suppressed for readability. The full working copy - identical in substance, with every correction, discrepancy, and open question preserved exactly as it happened across the complete revision sequence (v0.1 through v1.65) - is archived alongside this item on the Internet Archive. See “A note on how to read this memorandum,” below, for what that production history contains and why it exists.

Reader’s Guide

This memorandum is a working archival research record, not a finished historical monograph. It consolidates research undertaken to resolve several specific, longstanding questions about the Rancho La Ballona surveys, the 1868 judicial partition and its successor proceedings, and the land-classification disputes that followed - not to provide a comprehensive narrative history of the rancho.

It has three objectives: to document what is currently supported by primary and secondary sources; to identify unresolved discrepancies that call for further archival research; and to preserve the research’s own provenance, so that any future corrigenda can be traced back to the specific evidence and reasoning behind it.

Readers who want the current state of the evidence without reading sequentially can start at ‘Principal conclusions supported by current evidence’ (before Section 6), then consult individual sections as needed via the Table of Contents below. Readers who want the full argument, including how it was built and where it remains open, can start at ‘Purpose and status’ and read straight through. Either way, the evidentiary-status tags used throughout (CORROBORATED, RESOLVED, DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE, and so on, defined under ‘Purpose and status’) indicate how much weight a given claim can bear - they are not decoration.

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Purpose and status

This memorandum consolidates research conducted across numerous sessions on three related but distinct questions: (1) when and how the 1858 Henry Hancock survey of Rancho La Ballona was first disputed; (2) the 1868 partition suit (Young v. Machado, Case No. 965) that divided the rancho among 32 co-owners, and the further partition proceedings that followed it; and (3) whether the four-class land-quality framework used in that partition was itself a source of legal contention, then or later. The Markdown working source originated as a structural migration of the v1.1 publication release, following twenty-four rounds of revision and an explicit, documented cross-verification process across multiple independent AI systems (the author's own Triple-AI Recursive Consensus Review methodology), and has remained the authoritative working format through the subsequent revision sequence, with every correction, discrepancy, and open question preserved in the full working copy's complete version history rather than smoothed away. It is offered as a snapshot of the present state of this research, not a final word - see the Closing Reflection near the end of this document for what that means in practice, and the full working copy, archived alongside this item, for the complete revision history.

A note on how to read this memorandum: between the 1839 Mexican land grant and the 1930s channelization of Ballona Creek lies nearly a century of documentary history, fragmented across federal, state, county, and private archives, spanning multiple legal systems (Mexican, then American), several generations of the same families, and records in more than one language. Across the course of this research, the same underlying land was found to have passed through at least three distinct, independently-documented partition proceedings (Case No. 965 in 1868; Case No. 2722 in 1875-76; Case No. 5630 in 1887), each producing its own map, its own table of partition, and in one case a referee's surname that remains genuinely unresolved between two spellings even after two independent readings of the primary document. A single misplaced decimal point, caught only because an unrelated figure happened to already be on record, briefly turned a real 15-acre parcel into a fabricated 1.5-acre contradiction. None of this is unusual for a rancho of this history; it is presented here deliberately, seams visible, because the throughline of this research is that commonly repeated summaries of Ballona's history are consistently more simplified than the underlying documentary record supports. A reader is better served by an evidentiary tier and an open question than by a confident-sounding claim that has not been checked against a primary source - which is the discipline this memorandum tries to model throughout, not just assert in this paragraph.

This memorandum went through twenty-four working-draft revisions (v0.1 through v0.24) before this release, incorporating self-directed research passes, cross-references to companion technical reports, and independent review from multiple AI systems (Perplexity and ChatGPT throughout; GeminiAI in one documented instance, Section 6 and Source Hierarchy), plus, in several cases, the author's own direct inspection of primary archival documents. The full, unabridged history of what changed in each of those revisions - including several documented instances of an AI-sourced claim being investigated, found wanting, and corrected - is preserved in full in the working copy's Version block, exactly as it happened, rather than smoothed into a clean narrative. This is that companion distribution copy, with that revision history suppressed for readers who want the research findings without the production history; the full

working copy, with the complete version history through the current revision, is archived alongside this item.

Editorial note on AI-provenance conventions (adopted in v0.16, per external review): since v0.16, Sections 1-7 identify findings using the evidentiary-status legend only (CORROBORATED, PEER-REVIEW ADDITION, RESOLVED, etc.) without naming which AI system produced or reviewed each individual finding. Evidence carries the argument; review methodology is documented separately. Full provenance - which system found or confirmed what, and how independent passes converged or diverged - is consolidated in Section 9 and the References. Earlier-revision bullets that still name a specific system inline (e.g., legacy v0.9-v0.12 tags) have been left as originally written rather than retroactively scrubbed, so the version history remains an accurate record of when this convention changed.

Editorial note on period-name variance (adopted v1.18): this note treats naming and spelling variance across primary sources - e.g., “Ignacio”/ “Ygnacio” Machado, or “Lagoon”/“Bay”/“Inner Bay” for the same water feature - as the normal condition of the period record, not as an inconsistency to resolve toward one standardized answer. Reviewers, human or AI, should not assign modern interpretations, simplifications, or present-day vernacular onto period sources; where sources vary, the variance itself is the finding to report, not an error to correct. This does not relax this note’s separate, ongoing discipline of determining what a specific primary document’s own hand actually reads at a given point (e.g., the Section 3 case-caption letterform question below) - general period variance and a single document’s specific wording are different questions, and neither should be used to settle the other.

TARC research directive on identifier and document-copy reconciliation (adopted v1.26, extended v1.27, following the C.F. 16/C.F. 64 correction at v1.24-25 and the multiple-manual-copies finding at v1.27): this note’s research repeatedly encountered the same structural problem - archival identifiers (Clerk Filed Map numbers, Miscellaneous Records book/page citations, LMU’s CSLA designations, Huntington catalog IDs, County Surveyor numbers, and others) that do not cross-reference each other across institutions, even when they describe the same physical document. In every instance this note has examined, each institution’s own catalog, finding aid, or index has been internally complete and correct on its own terms, without being built to translate its identifiers into another institution’s system, because no single institution had a reason to ask that question in the cases this note encountered - this note treats that as a research heuristic drawn from its own experience, not as an established property of archival systems generally (outside review, v1.59, flagged the original unqualified phrasing as claiming more than this investigation demonstrated). This is not a research failure and should not be treated as one. The following directive applies to all future work on this note, by any reviewer, human or AI:

1. Do not assume two documents are the same instrument because their subject matter, names, or approximate content match. Treat apparent equivalence as a hypothesis requiring a source that explicitly states the cross-reference, not a conclusion to draw from pattern matching alone - this is precisely the mistake this note made at v1.21, accepting a plausible-sounding equivalence from an authoritative-seeming source (expert consultation) without a document that actually stated it.

2. Actively seek out register-type sources, not just individual documents: bound internal indices, case-number ledgers, and finding-aid volumes maintained by the originating institution are disproportionately valuable, because they are more likely than any single map, deed, or catalog entry to state a cross-reference explicitly, at least within their own system.
3. When a document's own institutional metadata is silent on how it relates to identifiers used elsewhere, treat that silence as expected, not as evidence the identifiers are unrelated or that this note's research has been incomplete - the absence of a cross-reference in one system's metadata says nothing about whether a connection exists, only that this system was never built to record it.
4. When remote methods - search, AI-assisted document reading, catalog and finding-aid review - reach diminishing returns on a specific naming or identifier question, treat that as a signal, drawn from this investigation's own experience, to shift toward direct, in-person institutional inquiry rather than continuing to search harder within the same systems - not as a demonstrated general rule that the connecting information cannot exist in any remotely-accessible system (outside review, v1.59, flagged the original "likely does not exist" phrasing as overstating what one investigation's pattern can establish). The next step at that point is direct, in-person inquiry with the institutions themselves, asking the specific cross-referencing question no single system's own catalog was designed to answer.
5. When a bridging source is found (a "Rosetta Stone" document in this note's own terms - see Reference 73 and the Closing Reflection), record explicitly which systems it connects and which it does not. A source that reconciles two identifier systems should not be assumed to reconcile a third without its own direct evidence.
6. A single citation does not guarantee a single physical document. Added (v1.27), after the requester identified at least three non-identical manually-transcribed copies filed under the same "M.R. 3-204-209" citation (see Reference 70 and Section 6): before the era of mechanical reproduction, an official "copy" of a recorded map was frequently produced by a clerk or draftsman re-drawing it by hand, not duplicating it, and different manual copies of the nominally same record can differ in real, substantive ways - drafting style and handwriting, but also feature shape, notation, and content. Do not treat a single citation (a Book/page number, a C.F. number, a catalog ID) as necessarily denoting one uniform document until the specific copy in hand has been identified as such. When citing a specific reading (a figure, a spelling, a course, a notation) from a source with this kind of citation, identify which physical copy was actually examined, and do not assume that reading holds for every copy filed under the same citation without checking.

Evidentiary-status legend

Evidentiary-status legend used throughout: CORROBORATED marks a claim independently corroborated against a cited source since the previous draft. PEER-REVIEW CORRECTION marks a factual or citation error identified and fixed. PEER-REVIEW FLAG and DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE mark an open conflict or unverified detail requiring further work. PEER-REVIEW ADDITION marks new supporting material folded in from a review pass. RESOLVED marks an open item now settled against a directly-cited primary or

archival source. FLAG and Open item (Section 6) mark outstanding research tasks. None of these tags substitute for pulling the underlying primary document; they record this note's current best understanding of each claim's status, not a final determination.

Source hierarchy

Sources cited in this note vary considerably in evidentiary weight, and the note is more useful if that hierarchy is made explicit rather than left for the reader to infer from context. From highest to lowest weight:

- Tier 1 - Primary records: original surveys and maps (Hancock 1858; USC&GS 1887; the 1868/1876 partition maps); court decrees and dockets; government reports and land-case files; the Summa Corp. v. California opinion itself; Board of Supervisors minutes and petitions; contemporary newspaper notices and articles (Los Angeles Star 1872, Los Angeles Herald 1886).
- Tier 2 - Named historical monographs and articles with their own source apparatus: Rolle (1952), Robinson (1941), Wittenburg (1973).
- Tier 3 - Historical society and archive summaries that synthesize Tier 1-2 material without full citation apparatus of their own: Cheviot Hills History, Huntington/Calisphere/OAC catalog descriptions, the LMU Hannon Library MS123 and CSLA-32 finding aids (new v0.14), S. Ravi Tam's Distant Vistas excerpt.
- Tier 4 - General-reference encyclopedic sources with variable and often unstated sourcing: Wikipedia (English and other-language mirrors).
- Tier 5 - AI-generated or AI-aggregated reference content with no independent citation trail of its own: Grokipedia; GeminiAI. Excluded from this note as citable sources (see References 3 and 51); retained in the reference list only to document that they were consulted and superseded. GeminiAI in particular produced a claim about Case 5630 (Section 6) that pointed toward a real primary source but contained a decimal-placement error and an apparently confabulated second surveyor name; the case itself was ultimately resolved on the strength of the requester's own direct inspection of the primary document, not on the AI claim - see Section 9 for the full account. Per standing instruction, Gemini output is never to be cited as a supporting source in this or any derived document without full independent verification against primary or archival sources.
- Tier 6 - This note's own inferences, syntheses, and paraphrase (e.g., Section 4a's verbatim synthesis fragment): explicitly not citable as authority for any claim, and flagged as such wherever it appears.

As a working rule: where a Tier 1 source and a Tier 3 or 4 source conflict, the Tier 1 source controls and the lower-tier source should be corrected or dropped, not presented as a parallel authority. Where two Tier 3-4 sources conflict and no Tier 1 or 2 source resolves it, the conflict should be flagged as genuinely

open rather than adjudicated by preference. Tiers reflect evidentiary weight only, not reliability of transcription - a Tier 1 scan can still be misread, and should be re-checked against the original if a claim resting on it seems load-bearing.

Roadmap: evolution of the Rancho La Ballona cadastral framework

Readers unfamiliar with nineteenth-century California land law often assume there was a single 'official map' of a rancho. There was not, and this note now has enough primary documentation in hand to lay out why. The cadastral record for Rancho La Ballona evolved through a sequence of distinct surveys and judicial proceedings, each serving a different legal purpose and building on the one before it, without any one constituting a correction of, or a replacement for, the others (see Section 3a for the full argument). At a glance:

- 1839 - Mexican land grant to Jose Agustin Antonio Machado, Jose Ygnacio Antonio Machado, Felipe Talamantes, and Tomas Talamantes (Section 1).
- 1858 - Henry Hancock's federal boundary survey, establishing the rancho's exterior perimeter for U.S. patent confirmation - not an internal partition (Section 1, Section 7a, Reference 76).
- 1868 - Young v. Machado, Case No. 965: the original judicial partition dividing the whole rancho among approximately 32 co-tenants, executed by referees J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E.H. Boyd (Section 3).
- 1875-76 - Case No. 2722, Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al.: a successor partition subdividing the Estate of Agustin Machado's 1868 allotment among his individual heirs, surveyed by George Hansen and Alfred Solano (Section 3).
- 1887 - Case No. 5630, Agustin Cota vs. Erolinda C. de Yorba et al.: a legally distinct partition of separate property (in-town lots, Reference 53), not a continuation of the 1868 or 1875-76 proceedings
    - but its own map is not cadastrally isolated from them: its boundaries are tied to "Old Partition Stake" markers referencing the earlier partition framework, and adjoin land bordered by figures named in the 1875-76 partition (Section 6, Reference 53).
- Later - Los Angeles County Assessor and Recorder map-book revisions documenting road and railroad rights-of-way, further subdivision, and the eventual absorption of the rancho into Venice, Culver City, Playa del Rey, and the rest of the modern Westside (Section 6, Section 3a).

Each stage has its own map, and in some cases its own surveyor. These records form a documentary lineage, but not a single chain of legal succession: Case No. 2722 and the later Assessor/Recorder re-plats document subsequent legal or cadastral states of the 1868 allotments, while Case No. 5630 is a legally separate partition whose survey is cadastrally tied to the earlier framework without being a further legal successor to it (Section 3a) - which is why this note treats these records collectively as a

lineage to be read in context, rather than as competing accounts of a single original division, without treating that lineage as one uniform chain of transfers.

1. Background: grant, confirmation, and the 1858 survey

- Rancho La Ballona (about 13,920 acres) was granted in 1839 by Governor Juan Alvarado to Jose Agustin Antonio Machado, Jose Ygnacio Antonio Machado, Felipe Talamantes, and Tomas Talamantes, building on an 1819 grazing concession.
- Claim filed under the 1851 California Land Act in October 1852; approved by the Board of California Land Commissioners February 14, 1854; RESOLVED (v0.14): the appeal-dismissal date and docket identifiers are now confirmed directly against the Berkeley Bancroft digital collection's own case-file record, not merely inferred from a secondary index: appeal dismissed January 28, 1857; Associated Case Numbers Toma 43, 44, Expediente 184, Docket 369, 123 SD, GLO 434 (digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/264493). The Toma and Expediente numbers are new detail not previously carried in this note.
- Survey completed by Henry Hancock, dated July 1858 (field work credited to L. Seebold for Hansen, under Hancock's instructions), showing 13,919.90 acres. CORROBORATED: this attribution is independently corroborated by the Calisphere partition-map catalog description, which states the survey was 'made by (L. Seebold for Hansen), under instructions from H. Hancock' - this detail can now be treated as confirmed rather than uncertain.
- The Surveyor General of California approved the 1858 survey, but the General Land Office in Washington rejected it on submission. J. W. Mandeville (U.S. Surveyor General, San Francisco) had given prior approval; the matter was remanded to him for re-examination, and tentative results were published September 27, 1860 in the Los Angeles Star and other papers (Rolle, 1952).
- Patent finally issued December 8, 1873 to Agustin Machado et al., confirming 13,919.90 acres, per both Rolle and the Berkeley Bancroft case-file record cited above.
- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION: a Background Memorandum on the U.S. Surveyor-General's rancho-survey program clarifies, and this note should state explicitly, that Hancock in 1858 was acting as a Deputy United States Surveyor under the authority of the U.S. Surveyor-General, not as a private surveyor retained by the Machado family - a federal officer executing a defined legal program (boundary location, monumentation, certified plat and field notes) in support of the federal land-patent process, not an environmental or botanical survey. The certified plat itself, in Hancock's own hand, reads 'Surveyed under the orders of the U.S. Surveyor General by Henry Hancock, Deputy Surveyor, July 1858' (Huntington Library, ID 20895; certified as a true copy by J. W. Mandeville, U.S. Surveyor-General, October 2, 1863).
- DISAMBIGUATION (v0.15): this note now has three distinct 1868-1876 surveys involving the name 'Hansen' or the rancho boundary in play, which should not be conflated: (1) the 1868

Report of the Survey of Partition dividing Rancho La Ballona among the Young v. Machado co-owners, executed by referees J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E. H. Boyd (Section 3-4) - George Hansen's role, if any, in this specific 1868 partition had not been established as of this v0.15 disambiguation and should not have been assumed at the time. SUBSEQUENTLY RESOLVED (v1.9/v1.11): the primary 1868 partition map itself identifies "G. Hansen, County Surv[eyo]r, per L. Seebold, Dep. County Surv[eyo]r," and subsequent biographical reconciliation supports identifying this G. Hansen as George Hansen, who served as Los Angeles County Surveyor 1864-1869 (see Section 3); (2) a separate 1868 survey by George Hansen of the neighboring Rancho Sausal Redondo, cited in the Background Memorandum as a parallel example of federal deputy-surveyor work, unrelated to the Ballona partition; and (3) Hansen's 1876 survey (with Alfred Solano) subdividing the Estate of Agustin Machado's allotment among the Machado heirs (Section 3, Huntington/Calisphere). The document title 'Botanical Notations in the 1858 Hancock and 1868 Hansen Rancho Surveys' (the companion report referenced by the Background Memorandum) appears to refer to Hansen's Sausal Redondo survey, not the Ballona partition referees - worth confirming directly, since the same year and surname otherwise invite conflation with this note's own 1868 Warner/Thomas/Boyd partition.

2. When was the survey first disputed - open question

No single, cleanly captioned lawsuit titled as a direct challenge to the Hancock survey has been identified yet. What the record shows is a sequence of distinct actions that are easy to conflate:

- 1858-1860, administrative protest (not a court filing): during the readvertised confirmation proceedings, property owners immediately north of Rancho Ballona protested the proposed survey before the Land Office/Surveyor General; the Machados and Talamantes filed affidavits in response. This is documented in Summa Corp. v. California, 466 U.S. 198, 203-204 (1984), not in a district court docket. PEER-REVIEW CORRECTION: the pinpoint cite should read 203-204, not 204 alone - the protest language begins at 203 and continues into 204. Separately, the identification of the protesting parties as 'Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica interests' is this note's own inference from known adjacent-rancho geography, not language found in Summa Corp. itself, which names them only as 'the property owners immediately north of the Rancho Ballona.' That identification should be attributed to an extrinsic source (or confirmed independently) before being presented as part of the Summa Corp. holding, or otherwise flagged explicitly as inference. v0.14's broad search pass did not turn up an extrinsic source naming the protesting parties; the item remains open.

- 1859 Act requirement: per Rolle, a law of 1859 required that a rancho survey be submitted to a district court for adjudication, with appeal available to the U.S. Supreme Court. This appears to be the statutory basis for treating survey disputes as litigation going forward, but no specific Ballona filing under this provision has yet been located and dated. PEER-REVIEW FLAG: the only federal statute located matching this description is the Act of July 1, 1864, 'to expedite the Settlement of Titles to Lands in the State of California,' which created a ninety-day survey-

objection window with affidavits transmitted to the Commissioner of the General Land Office - and Summa Corp.'s own footnote 3 cites this 1864 Act, not an 1859 Act, for the same procedural mechanism. This is a material discrepancy: either Rolle's 'law of 1859' is a different, earlier requirement; or it is a date error in Rolle or in this note's paraphrase of Rolle; or the two statutes are being conflated. v0.14's search pass did not locate the Rolle 1952 article text itself, so the discrepancy remains unresolved. Resolve directly against Rolle's 1952 article text before further use - the 1864 Act is the one with clear primary-source (Summa Corp.) confirmation, and should not be silently swapped in for '1859' without checking what Rolle actually wrote.

- November 19, 1868: Secretary of the Interior O. H. Browning wrote to the General Land Commissioner that he did not believe the boundary question could be settled until the California courts ruled - indicating litigation was ongoing at the federal administrative level as of that date, but again without a located docket number specific to a survey challenge.

- John D. Young's partition suit, Case No. 965 (see Section 3), does not appear, from presently available evidence, to have been a direct challenge to Hancock's survey. It assumed Hancock's 1858 survey and acreage as its baseline and used it to divide ownership shares, and it should not be cited as 'the first lawsuit disputing the survey' unless pleadings or docket material surface showing otherwise.

FLAG: if a discrete survey-contest filing exists separate from the confirmation-proceeding protest and separate from Young v. Machado, it likely sits in the RG 49 land case files (Bancroft Library, BANC MSS C-R 17; Case 123 SD, Docket 369, GLO 434) or in the Solano-Reeve Collection at the Huntington. Not yet pulled; see Section 6 for the newly identified Huntington finding aid (mssSolano-Reeve) reference.

3. The 1868 partition: Young v. Machado, Case No. 965

Full case style, per the 1876 Hansen partition map: John D. Young et al. v. Ygnacio Machado et al., No. 965 of the Register of Actions, District Court of the 1st Judicial District of California, decree of 14 December 1868. Note: this is the citation from the map's own title block and should be treated as more authoritative than secondary paraphrases below.

- Trigger: Tomas Talamantes defaulted on an 1854 loan from Benjamin D. Wilson (and William T. B. Sanford); Wilson foreclosed and bought Talamantes's undivided one-quarter interest at a sheriff's auction December 31, 1855, for $2,000. CORROBORATED: this trigger narrative, including the $1,500 original loan amount, is corroborated precisely by Cheviot Hills History's reproduction of Rolle. EXPANDED, v1.40, background paper plus independent verification: the requester compiled a two-page background note, "Tomas Talamantes, Benjamin D. Wilson, and the Breakup of Rancho La Ballona on January 2, 1857" (the requester's own synthesis, dated August 10, 2026, explicitly NOT yet TARC-reviewed - treated here as a background/candidate source, not merged as established fact, per both outside reviewers' independent recommendation on this point). This note's own follow-up web search corroborated most of its specific figures against four independent Tier 2/3 sources (Cheviot Hills History's reproduction of

a 1939 Culver City calendar-of-events piece, the LMU/OAC MS123 finding aid, a Mar Vista neighborhood history document, and Wikipedia): the loan's five-percent-per-month interest rate, the $2,353.26 judgment, a December 6, 1855 writ of execution recording $1,690.28 in accrued interest, and Sheriff Alexander's name as the officer who conducted the December 31, 1855 auction. ONE DIGIT DISCREPANCY, SOURCE- ATTRIBUTION RESOLVED, UNDERLYING FIGURE STILL OPEN (v1.45): the background paper gives costs of $238.81; this note's own citation attributes $239.81 specifically to "Cheviot Hills History's reproduction of a 1939 Culver City calendar-of-events piece" (i.e., the site's "Culver City - A Calendar of Events (1939)" page), not to the site's separate "Historic Ranchos" page. Perplexity Computer's first-round spot-check read $238.81, matching the background paper, on Cheviot Hills History's "Historic Ranchos" page - a different page than the one this note's own citation names, flagged at v1.42 as not necessarily the contradiction it first appeared to be. A second-round pull, going specifically to the "Calendar of Events (1939)" page this note's own citation actually names, confirms that page's own text: "the lenders had gone to court and recovered a judgment against him of $2353.26, with interest at five per cent per month from September 25, 1854, and an additional sum of $239.81." SOURCE-ATTRIBUTION QUESTION RESOLVED: this note's own existing citation was correct all along - $239.81 is what the calendar-of-events page states, and the discrepancy Perplexity Computer's first-round check surfaced was a page-mismatch on its own part (checking "Historic Ranchos" rather than the page this note cites), not an error in this note's citation. UNDERLYING FIGURE DISCREPANCY UNCHANGED: this resolves which page says what, not which number is correct - the background paper's $238.81 remains an unexplained outlier against this note's now-confirmed $239.81 source, and neither is adopted as the more likely correct historical figure without a primary instrument (a deed book or judgment-roll entry) to check against. CO-LOCATION NOTED: the $239.81 figure and the January 2, 1857 deed date (see below) appear in the same continuous narrative passage on the calendar-of-events page - not the same sentence or paragraph, but part of one unbroken account of the same foreclosure episode, per Perplexity Computer's direct check. CORROBORATED (v1.42): the paper's specific claim that Wilson's sheriff's deed was issued January 2, 1857 - previously NOT CORROBORATED, sourced only to the requester's own background paper - is independently confirmed by this note's own direct check of Cheviot Hills History's "Culver City - A Calendar of Events (1939)" page (cheviothillshistory.org/home/miscellany/ culver-city-a-calendar-of-events-1939/), which states in its own text: "On January 2, 1857, the Sheriff gave Wilson a deed, and Wilson became a fourth owner of a great rancho." Perplexity Computer independently flagged the same passage. This closes the "sourced only to the requester's own background paper" caveat - the date is now Tier 2/3-corroborated, not merely paper-sourced - though it remains one source's own narrative account, not a deed book entry or other primary instrument, and is not elevated beyond that tier. CONFIRMED, a genuinely new connection: George Addison Sanford - the name appearing on the M.R. 3-204-209 sheet's own boundary calls (Reference 70, pp. 205/209) - is independently documented by Cheviot Hills History as William T. B. Sanford and John Sanford's nephew, who received 912 acres of Rancho La Ballona from his uncle John Sanford in 1861. This upgrades that name-match from a flagged possibility to a sourced family connection, tying the 1854 Talamantes/Wilson/Sanford foreclosure directly to a name already present in this memo's

own primary cartographic material. PROVENANCE NOTE, not evidentiary: the requester separately photographed a framed portrait of Benjamin D. Wilson, captioned “County Clerk, 6/24/1850 - 7/8/1853,” displayed in the LA County Recorder’s Norwalk facility - the same building where the M.R. 3-204-209 and C.F. 78 material was recovered. Both outside reviewers independently cautioned against over-reading significance into this coincidence of place; the clerkship recorded on the portrait ends July 8, 1853, before the June 14, 1854 Talamantes mortgage, so there is no documented institutional overlap beyond the two men having passed through the same county office at different times. Retained as a field/provenance photograph and interesting context, not as evidence bearing on the Ballona chain of title.

- In May 1859, Wilson sold that quarter interest to John Sanford, James T. Young, and John D. Young for $4,500. CORROBORATED: this figure and date are corroborated verbatim in the same source (Cheviot Hills History’s “Historic Ranchos” page). SECOND FIGURE SURFACED, DISCREPANCY LOGGED (v1.53): Cheviot Hills History’s separate “Culver City - A Calendar of Events (1939)” page states this same 1859 sale at $5,500, not $4,500 - the same two pages that diverge on the $238.81/$239.81 foreclosure-cost figure (Section 3, above) also diverge on this sale price, in the same direction (the “Historic Ranchos” page giving the lower figure both times). This note independently confirmed both pages’ own text directly rather than relying on a single reviewer’s report: the “Historic Ranchos” page reads “Wilson sold his quarter interest in La Ballona to John Sanford, James T. Young, and John D. Young for $4,500”; the “Calendar of Events (1939)” page reads “Wilson…had sold his undivided fourth interest for $5500.00. The purchasers were John Sanford, James T. Young and John D. Young.” Both are recorded; neither is adopted as the more likely correct figure without a primary instrument (a deed or conveyance record) to check against - the same treatment this note gives the parallel $238.81/$239.81 discrepancy, and worth noting as a second instance of the same two secondary sources disagreeing with each other, not just with this note’s own reading.

- DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE, now sharpened by a third source (v0.14): petition filing date is given as 1863 in Wikipedia’s ‘Rancho La Ballona’ article, but as 1865 in the Cheviot Hills History account and the S. Ravi Tam excerpt (‘When in 1865 John D. Young filed a petition with the District Court…’), citing Wittenburg 1973 (a Tier 2 monograph with its own source apparatus). PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.14): Loyola Marymount University’s Hannon Library holds an actual archival collection of Young-petition legal documents - Rancho La Ballona Property Records, 1868-1926 (MS123) - whose own scope note states Wilson ‘sold his undivided fourth to George A. Sanford and John D. Young, who in 1863 petitioned for the division of the lower Ballona Valley land’ (oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8k360c1/). This is a second, independent institutional source for 1863, distinct from Wikipedia, and it is a collection of the actual case documents rather than a secondary retelling - but it is still an archivist’s finding-aid summary, not the petition itself, so it is logged as Tier 3 corroboration for 1863 rather than a resolution. The conflict between this pairing (Wikipedia + LMU MS123, both 1863) and Wittenburg/Rolle-derived accounts (1865) should now be resolved by pulling the actual petition from MS123

directly - a research-trip target alongside the planned Registrar-Recorder visit (contact: LMU Department of Archives and Special Collections, 310-338-5710, Special.Collections@lmu.edu).

- The case took roughly two and a half years to resolve once the plat and related documents arrived from Monterey and San Francisco. PEER-REVIEW UPGRADE: this figure traces directly to Sister Mary Ste. Therese Wittenburg's 1973 book, The Machados & Rancho La Ballona, p. 48, as cited by name in Rolle/Cheviot Hills History - this is a well-sourced secondary citation and can be relied on with more confidence than the note's previous hedged framing suggested.

- Result: the rancho's approximately 14,000 acres, held in common by about 32 owners, was divided. Secondary accounts differ on the count and structure: some describe a 23-section decree later implemented as 64 parcels of varying shapes and sizes (Cheviot Hills History; Wikipedia's 'Rancho La Ballona' article describes 23 long narrow parcels directly, without mentioning 64). PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.14): the LMU MS123 finding aid also independently describes the outcome as '23 sections,' with no mention of 64 parcels, in the same passage that gives the 1863 filing date. This is a second Tier 3 source aligning on 23 (not 64), which shifts the balance of available secondary description toward a two-stage reading (a 23-section decree, later implemented on the ground as more numerous physical parcels) rather than a straightforward secondary-source error - but it has still not been verified against the primary decree text or the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868 itself, and should not be treated as resolved.

- Long, narrow strip-parcel geometry (informally called "slices" in present-day discussion of this partition - a modern descriptive label, not a period term, used here for reader accessibility; some strips reportedly up to 2.5 miles long) was designed so each allotment touched multiple land classes and reached the bay.

- CORROBORATED (v1.5, from two primary-source photographs): the long, narrow strip geometry described above is directly confirmed by two independent primary documents. The first is the original December 14, 1868 partition map itself (user-photographed; see Reference 60 for a v1.11 correction to this document's LMU/CSLA collection attribution), showing thirteen named Machado heirs - Francisco, Dolores, Susana M. Bernardo, Martina M. de Cota, Candelaria, Ascension, Vicenta M. de Lugo, Juan, Domingo, Bernardino, Jose Juan, Andres, and Jose de la Luz Machado - each allotted a narrow strip of approximately 26.1-26.4 acres along a shared N.61°E bearing, with individual chain-widths recorded at the water's edge. The second is a Los Angeles County Assessor Map Book sheet (Book 139, M.B. 13-131 and M.B. 16-38; user-photographed), a later composite re-plat overlaying the same strip allotments onto 20th-century tract boundaries (Venice City Boundary, Recreation Gun Clubs Tract, Pradera Tract), which places this second sheet no earlier than c. 1905 and confirms the strips persisted, and were still being re-platted, well after the original 1868 partition - directly supporting this note's already-stated point (Section 3a) that the cadastral record is a lineage of successive documents, not a single one.

- The Assessor sheet also independently confirms Case No. 2722 by name ("CASE 2722," on-sheet) tied to "Ramona S. de Machado - 341.85 Ac. Allot.," consistent with this note's existing Case No. 2722 identification (Section 6).

- Open items from this comparison, not yet resolved: (1) the Assessor sheet shows an additional family group above the Machado allotments, namely Gregoria, Tomasa, Lauriano, Pedro, Jacinto, and Jesus Talamantes, plus M. Valenzuela, each with their own allotment, whose relationship to the Machado partition (same proceeding, or a separate one) has not been established; (2) several individual acreage figures differ slightly between the two sheets (e.g., Ascencion, Juan, Jose Juan, and Andres Machado), which may reflect a real re-survey adjustment between 1868 and the Assessor re-plat, or may simply be a transcription issue reading two crowded handwritten sheets - not yet distinguished; (3) the figure "44.17 acres" appears as an individual allotment size for three different Talamantes-group heirs on the Assessor sheet, and separately as the group heading total for "Francisco and Dolores Machado" on both sheets - worth checking whether this is a coincidence of the partition's standard allotment sizes or a transcription conflation, before relying on it for any specific claim.

- NEW (v1.13, Reference 68): two further crops of this same Assessor sheet area, examined jointly by this note, ChatGPT, and Perplexity Computer per the TARC methodology, resolve to a narrow, confirmed finding after an initial three-way disagreement over a broader question. A stationed watercourse-following boundary line (numbered stations 78 through 83, running along the Jesus/Jacinto/Pedro Talamantes allotments) terminates at station 83, where the linework changes from a single stationed channel into a fan of converging strip-allotment boundaries. RESOLVED, narrowly: station 83 marks the end of the surveyed, stationed watercourse on this particular sheet. NOT established, and not claimed: that this is the hydrological terminus, mouth, or debouchment point of Ballona Creek into Hancock's interior bay - that finding remains governed by the existing Terminus Report (v5.72), and this Assessor sheet neither confirms nor contradicts it. Separately, neither crop labels the watercourse "Ballona Creek" in the surveyor's own hand; that identification comes from the source filenames, not an on-sheet label. RESOLVED (v1.14): the "Richard Courtney Collection" source of these crops is confirmed as a real Huntington Library holding supplementing the Los Angeles Area Court Records - see Reference 68 for the full account. RESOLVED (v1.15, References 69-70): the requester's promised additional maps arrived - the 1876 Hansen/Solano map (Case No. 2722, both a working copy labeled "C.F. 64" and the Recorder's own copy at Book 3 Miscellaneous Maps pp. 204-209 [CORRECTED v1.33; cited at v1.15-1.32 as "Miscellaneous Records" - see Reference 70 and Section 9 for the correction]) labels the watercourse "Ballona Creek" directly, on the face of the map, at two independent points, one of them adjacent to the same station 83 corner [attribution of the hand qualified v1.33: not established as specifically Solano's, Hansen's, or an unidentified copyist's - see Reference 70]. The creek's dotted course continues southwest past station 83 to the coast. This confirms station 83 is a shared corner between two different partition-era surveys, not an endpoint of the creek itself

  - the earlier “narrow, deliberately non-committal” framing (below) is now supported rather than contradicted by this additional evidence. See Section 9 for the full reconciliation against the original three-way AI disagreement. LOCATED (v1.19): “C.S. 8194,” the distinct County Surveyor record specifically for the Ballona Creek channel flagged as an open item at v1.15, has been found - see Reference 71 and the new Section 6 entry for the full account. It is a 1920s Los Angeles County Flood Control District right-of-way map, not a 19th-century survey, and does not itself revisit the historic 1858/1868-era creek course; see Reference 71 for the distinction. EXTENDED (v1.20): a related four-sheet right-of-way series (Reference 72) carries this same engineering corridor continuously from inland to the Pacific Ocean, and includes a direct annotation tying Case No. 5630 (this note’s still-open Bernal/Bernol referee-surname question, Section 6) to the Agustin Cota parcel on the same sheet series - the first cross-reference linking Case 5630 into this creek/right-of-way document family. Also noted from these crops: the allotment adjacent to station 83 reads “G. Addison Sanford,” consistent with the “Geo. Ad. Sanford” already established in this note (Section 9, from the Courtney Map’s own List of Partition table) - one AI review pass read this name as “Lt. Addison Sanford,” which does not match any name elsewhere in this note’s record and is not adopted.

- Both photographs are user-supplied. RESOLVED IN PART (v1.11): the working assumption that the 1868 partition-map photograph (Reference

  60) belonged to the LMU Fritz Burns Papers under a shared “CSLA-11” label has been checked directly against LMU’s own finding aid and does not hold - CSLA-11 is a single-item collection containing only the 1876 Hansen/Solano map (already Reference 56), and the Fritz Burns Papers are a separate collection (CSLA-4, with a related CSLA-2) covering Fritz Burns’s real-estate career, unconnected to the Machado partition maps. The open question narrows accordingly: it is no longer “which of two maps is CSLA-11” (answered: the 1876 map only) but “what LMU/CSLA collection and catalog number, if any, actually holds the 1868 partition-map photograph” - not yet established, and not assumed to be CSLA-anything until confirmed.

- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.17, from three further user-supplied photographs of Los Angeles County Assessor Old Map Books, Tier 1 cadastral records, sourced by the requester directly from that office’s Old Map Books archive, 222 North Hill Street, Room 103): two of the three sheets independently reproduce the same “Case 5630” annotation and the same 0.38-then-1.10-to-1.92-acre deduction pattern already RESOLVED elsewhere in this note (Section 6) - reinforcement of an existing finding via an independent photograph of the same or a closely related sheet, not a new discovery. The third sheet (a wider-view composite re-plat, “Tract No. 1100,” Del Rey Blvd./Panama St. area) contributes genuinely new detail:

  - Two explicit on-sheet successive-revision pointers, “For 1915 see Book 332” and “For 1918 see Book 273,” which is direct primary confirmation - in the Assessor’s own hand -

that this strip sequence was re-platted at least twice more after this sheet's own base year. Further support for the Section 3a living-instrument reframe.

  - Ramona S. de Machado's allotment appears on this sheet with two additional acreage figures, 246.03 and 93.96, alongside the already-documented 341.85 - consistent with the requester's statement that this allotment underwent continual further subdivision over subsequent decades, though the specific mechanism (partition, sale, road/rail taking, or some combination) connecting the three figures has not yet been established from a primary decree or deed.

  - A cluster of smaller allotments (approximately 15.5-17.9 acres each) for Andres Machado, Jose de la Luz Machado, "Jose J. Machado," and one further Machado heir whose given name is not yet confidently read, each markedly smaller than the same individuals' approximately 26-acre shares on the 1868 table (Section 4) - consistent with a later further-subdivision generation, not yet tied to a specific year or case number.

- Two of the three sheets also itemize the 341.85-acre Ramona S. de Machado allotment's own later reductions by category ("in Playa del Rey," "in R.R.," "in Shop Gr[oun]ds," "in Rd."), with running figures in the neighborhood of 50, 291, 7, 284, and 279.93 acres across the sequence - a distinct parcel-level reduction record from the already-documented 13-strip deduction pattern above, not yet reconciled against a primary tax roll or road/rail right-of-way grant. Exact figures are provisional pending a clearer reading of dense, overlapping handwriting on the original sheets; treat as an open item, not a settled figure, until re-checked.

- CORRECTION (v1.7): the prior entry in this note (v1.6) stated, per the requester and flagged as uncorroborated, that Ramona S. de Machado's "S." stood for Sepulveda and that she inherited the Estate of Agustin Machado allotment as his daughter. Independent verification (prompted by a claim from GeminiAI, Tier 5/excluded per the Source Hierarchy - not cited directly, but checked, per standing practice) found the maiden name correct but the relationship wrong: Ramona Sepulveda was Agustin Machado's second wife, not his daughter. Corroborated across several independent sources: Find a Grave's reproduction of her February 1891 death notices in the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Herald (contemporary newspaper accounts, the same source type already Tier 1 elsewhere in this note), which describe her as "the wife of Don Agustin Machado" and list her death at "82 years of age" surrounded by her children and grandchildren; a Huntington Library catalog description of a period portrait, "Dona Ramona Machado, wife of Agustin Machado"; and a Calisphere/USC Title Insurance and Trust Photography Collection caption independently describing the same portrait the same way. These sources further indicate Agustin Machado's first wife, Maria Petra Buelna, died in childbirth in 1826; he married Ramona Sepulveda on February 27, 1827 at the Los Angeles Plaza Church; the couple had fourteen children; Agustin died in 1865; and Ramona survived him as his widow until her own death in 1891. This is consistent with, and specifically completes, this note's existing v0.21 correction identifying her as an heir of the Estate of Agustin Machado - she was the primary heir as surviving spouse, not one of several children-heirs as that entry's

wording could be read to imply. Still not yet corroborated against a primary source (probate record, mission/parish register, or a directly-photographed document): the specific February 27, 1827 marriage date and the fourteen-children count, both currently resting on secondary genealogical compilations rather than a primary register entry viewed by this note directly.

- Largest allotment went to the Estate of Agustin Machado (who died in 1865), on the bluff northwest of the valley to the boundary with Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica; this allotment was further subdivided among Machado heirs in 1876 (Hansen/Solano map, Huntington and Calisphere). CORROBORATED: the December 14, 1868 decree date and the case caption 'John D. Young et al. v. Ygnacio Machado et al.' are corroborated by Huntington Digital Library's own cataloging of the partition map. The 'Ygnacio'/'Ignacio' variance is preserved as period-source variance under the v1.18 editorial convention (Purpose and status); individual source readings should not be normalized across documents.

- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION, now doubly confirmed (v0.21): the partition map's own title block, per the Huntington/Calisphere catalog description, states the division was made by referees 'J.J. Warner, H. Thomas & E. H. Boyd' (calisphere.org/item/fe0c51025e6a549d2da89b1b5ef68dfc/). These three names had not previously appeared in this note; they identify, by name, the court-appointed referees who actually executed the 1868 Report of the Survey of Partition, as distinct from Hancock (1858 perimeter survey) and Hansen/Solano (1876 subdivision of the Machado heirs' allotment). A full-resolution photograph of the 1868 map itself, examined v0.14, directly confirms the same three names in the map's own hand ('the partition made by J.J. Warner, H. Thomas & E.H. Boyd, Referees of partition'), independent of the Calisphere catalog description - this is now confirmed from two independent readings of the primary document's own title block, not from a single catalog transcription. Carry these names forward into Section 4 and any future citation of the Report of the Survey of Partition itself.

- RESOLVED (v0.17): the 1876 subdivision of the Estate of Agustin Machado's allotment among his heirs, mentioned above, now has a case number and a precise decree date. A Huntington Digital Library catalog record for the resulting map states it was made 'in connection with Los Angeles Superior Court case no. 14797, In the matter of the Estate of Ramona S. de Machado, deceased,' and that the underlying 'parcel [was] partitioned in District Court case no. 2722, Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al.' (huntington.org/collections/lib-p15150coll2-8075). This aligns with the 1876 partition map's own reference (already in this note, Section 3 above) to 'the decree of said district court of October 11th 1875,' and with Wikipedia's independent (non-primary, replace-before-citing) note that the Estate of Agustin Machado allotment was 're-divided' 'by a later partition in 1875.' Reading these together: Case No. 2722 (Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al.) is the District Court partition suit, decreed October 11, 1875, that divided Agustin Machado's estate allotment among his heirs; George Hansen and Alfred Solano executed the resulting survey and map in 1876 (already cited as Reference 7). Case No. 2722 is therefore a successor, intra-family partition of one allotment from the 1868 Young v. Machado (Case No. 965) decree - not an independent or unrelated proceeding, and not (on present evidence) a challenge to Case No. 965 itself. Separately, Superior Court case no.

14797 is Ramona S. de Machado's own later probate/estate proceeding, distinct from the 1875 partition suit she herself brought as plaintiff against Domingo Machado and other heirs; the two should not be conflated.

- DOUBLY CORROBORATED (v0.21, from a full-resolution photograph of the 1876 Hansen/Solano map itself, CSLA-11): the map carries its own on-sheet caption, independent of and additional to the Huntington catalog record cited above - 'In the District Court of the 17th Judicial District of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles. Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al.) No. 2722.' This is the case number appearing directly in the primary document's own hand, not merely in a modern institutional catalog description of it - the strongest possible confirmation available short of the original decree text itself. The same sheet also gives a precise certification date not previously in this note: 'the undersigned referee appointed to make partition in the above suit hereby certify this to be the Map referred to in our Report of Partition of this date. Los Angeles, April 12th 1876.' CORRECTED (v1.16): this entry originally stated the certification was signed by E.H. Boyd and a second, less legible signature, and concluded that E.H. Boyd certified this map rather than Hansen or Solano. This was wrong and is now known wrong on direct primary- source grounds, not merely superseded: fresh, independently-sourced crops of this same map (References 69-70, v1.15) show the certification signed solely by Geo. Hansen, consistent with the title block's own statement that the partition was made 'by Geo. Hansen sole referee of partition.' Case No. 2722 used a single referee, unlike Case No. 965's three-referee panel (Warner, Thomas, Boyd); this entry's E.H. Boyd attribution appears to have carried over from the 1868 map's certification in error. This error stood uncorrected through v1.15 itself, alongside the same error already fixed at Reference 56 - caught only during docx production when the two entries were read side by side and found to contradict each other. See Section 9 for the full account.

- CORRECTION (v0.21): a review pass characterized Ramona S. de Machado as one of the large allotments already 'intact' on the 1868 partition map. Direct examination of a full-resolution photograph of the 1868 map itself (the 'Courtney Map,' per its own filename - see below) shows this is not correct. The 1868 map's own List of Partition table does not list a 'Ramona S. de Machado' allotment at all; the relevant 1868 line item is 'Estate of Aug. Machado,' a single 204/672-interest block totaling 4,224.16 acres - by far the largest allotment on the 1868 table, consistent with this note's existing statement that the largest allotment went to the Estate of Agustin Machado. Ramona S. de Machado appears only on the later, 1876 map, as one of several named individual heirs among whom that single 1868 estate block was subsequently divided (Case No. 2722, above) - exactly the mechanism this note already describes, and a point worth getting right precisely because getting it backwards would undercut the note's own Hancock-versus-1868-partition-versus-Hansen distinction. CORRECTION (v1.9): this figure was previously transcribed as "304/672" (v0.21 through v1.8); a higher-resolution examination of the same photograph found this reads "204," confirmed by an arithmetic check the v0.21 reading did not survive - see below.

- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.21, from the same full-resolution 1868 map photograph): the map's own 'List of Partition' table gives, for each 1868 allottee, acreage broken out by the same four classes already described in Section 4 - its own column headers read '1st cl.' (irrigable), '2nd cl.,' '3rd cl.' (Pasture), and '4th cl.' (Bay) - directly on the primary partition map itself, not merely inferred from catalog snippets as previously noted in Section 4's partial-corroboration entry. Legible, high-confidence figures include: John D. Young, 84/672 interest, 1,733.42 acres total; Geo. Ad. Sanford, 42/672 interest, 912.13 acres; Estate of Aug. Machado, 204/672 interest, 4,224.16 acres (by far the largest, consistent with the point above); and a final 'Road' line item of 10.90 acres. Other individual Talamantes/Valenzuela figures on this table are only partially legible at the resolution available in the v0.21 examination and are not yet treated as confirmed line-by-line - a higher-resolution examination of the original would be needed before citing individual smaller allotments from this table with full confidence.

- CORRECTION and arithmetic verification (v1.9, from a higher-resolution crop of the same table): the Estate of Aug. Machado interest share, previously transcribed as "304/672," reads "204/672." This is not just a clearer look at the same digit - it is arithmetically required. Summing every other legible interest share in the column (John D. Young 84, Geo. Ad. Sanford 42, Elen Young & A. Rose 42, W.G. Prather 5, Maced. Aguilar 63, Benina Talamantes 8, Gregoria Talamantes 8, Tomasa Talamantes 8, Pedro Talamantes 8, Jacinto Talamantes 8, Jesus Talamantes 8, Lauriano Talamantes 14, Manuel Valenzuela 14, Fr. & Dol. Machado 14, A.J.A. R. & G. Machado 147) gives 473. Adding a 304 share brings the column to 777 - more than 100 over the stated 672-share total, which is not possible for a column of shares of a 672-share whole; adding a 204 share brings the column to 677. TIGHTENED (v1.19, Perplexity Computer TARC pass, independently re-verified by this note): the digit correction itself (204, not 304) is well-supported by this elimination - 304 is arithmetically impossible, 204 is not - and that specific claim is corrected throughout this note (both instances above) on that basis. Separately, and not the same claim: the column still does not sum exactly to the stated 672-share total even with 204 (677 against 672, a residual 5-share gap). This note's earlier wording ("within plausible reach… given how the bracketed… figures interact") gestured at this without stating it plainly. The gap is not resolved
  - it may owe to the bracketed Prather (5) or Young-Rose (42) figures being themselves slightly misread, but that has not been checked against a fresh crop, and it should not be read as settled simply because the digit question is.
- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v1.9, from the same higher-resolution crop): the case caption reads "John D. Young et al., Plaintiffs, vs. [Y/I]gnacio Machado et al., Defendants. No. 965." CORRECTED (v1.18): this entry originally stated with confidence that "this specific document's own spelling is 'Ignacio,' not 'Ygnacio.'" That claim was not carried forward accurately: during the later v1.12 title-block pass, re-examination of a separate, higher-resolution crop of this same case caption found the initial letter genuinely ambiguous between a capital "I" and a capital "Y" in period cursive - a finding discussed at the time but never written back into this entry, leaving the document more confident than the evidence actually supported. Corrected now: this

document's own spelling of the defendant's given name is unresolved, readable as either "Ignacio" or "Ygnacio," pending a direct letterform comparison against unambiguous capital I's and Y's elsewhere in the same surveyor's hand, or the requester's own inspection - the same method that ultimately settled the J.J. Warner signature question. Both spellings are independently well-attested across Rancho La Ballona documentation generally (period maps, surveys, and disenos both use "Ignacio" and "Ygnacio"), which is a reason not to resolve this specific document's reading by presumed convention rather than direct inspection, not a reason to prefer either spelling here. NEW SUPPORTING EVIDENCE (v1.22, UPGRADED v1.23): a fresh in-person photograph of the 1876 Hansen/Solano map (Reference 70) shows its own preamble, in Alfred Solano's hand, restating this same Case No. 965 caption for background context. A first photograph favored "Ygnacio"; a second, sharper in-person photograph (v1.23) confirms it clearly - the initial letter's loop and descender are unambiguous in this hand. This is a different scribe citing the case at a later date, not the 1868 instrument's own hand, so it does not resolve what this document's own caption reads - but the citation itself is now settled, not merely favored, and stands as a clearly-read, independent data point while the underlying 1868-document question stays open. See the Purpose and status editorial note on period-name variance for the general principle. The map was surveyed under the referees' direction by "G. Hansen, County Surv[eyo]r, per L. Seebold, Dep. County Surv[eyo]r." STRONGLY CORROBORATED, well- supported identification, moderate-high confidence (v1.11): whether this G. Hansen is the same surveyor behind the 1876 Hansen/Solano map (Reference 56) - independent biographical retrieval confirms George Hansen (1824-1897) served as sole Los Angeles County Surveyor 1864-1869, a tenure that squarely covers the December 1868 partition date, and the Huntington's Hansen/Solano/Reeve collection finding aid shows Hansen's own papers descending through Alfred Solano specifically - consistent with a direct working succession, not two contemporaries sharing a surname. No single source states the identity outright, so this stops short of RESOLVED at full confidence under this note's own definition of that label (settled against a directly cited primary or archival source), and the label above is corrected accordingly (v1.56, outside review) to avoid claiming a confidence tier this passage's own evidence does not reach - but the same surveyor's office handling both the 1868 partition and the 1876 heir subdivision is now the well-supported reading.

- NEW (v1.12, from a fresh high-resolution Huntington crop of the full title block): two further pieces of survey metadata, not previously quoted verbatim in this note, are now confirmed. Magnetic variation: "Var. 14°15'E" - confirmed after an initial three-way reviewer split (one AI read momentarily misread this as "14°55'E" before self-correcting against a sharper crop; two other independent reads, including this note's own, held 14°15'E throughout). Scale: "Scale of 1 inch to 20 ch.s" (20 chains to the inch, i.e. 1:15,840, or one inch representing one-quarter mile). Both are now part of this document's confirmed title-block transcription.

- REFRAMED (v1.12, from a fresh high-resolution Huntington crop of the full title block): the "13919.90 acres" figure is not an independent 1868 measurement at all. The title block's own sentence structure reads "containing 13919.90 acres of land according to a survey made under

instructions from the U.S. Surveyor General by Henry Hancock, Dep. Sur., in July 1858" - i.e., 13919.90 is explicitly Hancock's 1858 perimeter-survey figure, carried onto the 1868 map's title block as the rancho's acreage of record, not a number independently arrived at by the 1868 referees or by Hansen/Seebold's survey work. Two independent AI reads of this sentence (this note and a ChatGPT pass) parsed it the same way. This substantially changes how the previously-logged ~0.44-acre gap against the List of Partition table's own grand total ("13919.46") should be read: rather than an unexplained internal inconsistency in a single 1868 survey, it is more likely two different surveys' figures - Hancock's 1858 exterior boundary and the referees' own 1868 interior partition arithmetic - appearing on the same sheet a decade apart, a gap well within ordinary period chain-survey tolerance for a ~14,000-acre irregular perimeter. Downgraded from DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE to a noted, probably-benign distinction; would be fully closed by locating Hancock's own 1858 survey documentation to confirm 13919.90 is in fact his figure. CLOSED (v1.48): the requester located and retrieved Hancock's own 1858 survey documentation directly - the original patent plat, LADPW Patents Book 1, pages 309-310, now Reference 76 - and visually confirmed its own acreage figure reads "13,919 90/100 acres," an exact match. The acreage-attribution question is fully closed on the terms this entry itself specified; the separate ~0.44-acre gap against the partition table's own grand total remains the noted, probably-benign distinction described above, now resting on a directly-confirmed rather than inferred figure for the Hancock side of the comparison. Separately, summing the table's four class-column subtotals as presently read (1,473.08 + 1,581.59 + 3,744.6x + 2,120.16) still falls approximately 5,000 acres short of either total figure, while summing the eighteen individual owners' own Total-column entries comes to approximately 13,919.5 - consistent with the table's own grand total and still suggesting the 3rd-class (Pasture) column subtotal may be misread as "3,744" where "8,744" would close the gap. This narrower arithmetic question remains open, unlike the acreage-attribution question above.

- NEW, DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE (v0.21); appointment date and certification signatures both CONFIRMED (v1.12): the 1868 map's own title block states the referees (J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E.H. Boyd) were 'appointed by order of the District Court of date December 14th 1867' - one year earlier than the December 14, 1868 decree date this note has consistently cited elsewhere (sourced to the 1876 map's own reference to the earlier proceeding). A fresh, high-resolution Huntington crop (v1.12) confirms the 1867 date is unambiguous in the primary document's own hand, not a misreading. The referees' own certification on the 1868 map itself is dated 'Los Angeles, May 1868' - a fresh high-resolution crop (v1.12) confirms no day of the month is given, not an illegible or obscured figure; the certification is dated to month and year only. The certification is signed by two of the three named referees: E.H. Boyd (confidently read by every reviewer) and J.J. Warner (resolved v1.12, after independent AI readings split between "Warner" and other candidates - see Section 9 for the full reconciliation). H. Thomas's signature does not appear on this certification, though he is named as a referee in the title block above it. Three dates are therefore now in play from primary sources: December 14, 1867 (referee appointment, per the 1868 map's own title block); May 1868, no day given (referees' certification of their completed report, per the same map); and December 14, 1868 (the decree

date this note has cited throughout, per the 1876 map's title block). These are not necessarily inconsistent - a court could plausibly order referees appointed in one December and issue its final confirming decree exactly one year later - but this note has not previously distinguished 'order appointing referees' from 'final decree' as two separate dated events, and the coincidence of the same calendar day (December 14) one year apart is worth flagging rather than assuming. Resolve directly against the original decree and appointment order before treating either December 14 date as free of ambiguity. Separately, the certification's own wording - 'hereby certify this to be the Map referred to in our Report of Partition' - explicitly distinguishes this map from a separate written Report of Partition, strengthening the existing case (References 38, 39) that a companion court document survives and has not yet been located; it may resolve several of this section's open items directly if found.

- NEW (v0.21): the 1868 map's uploaded filename identifies it as the 'Courtney Map' (Rancho_la_Ballona_Courtney_Map_Los_Angeles_Court_Records_00965). This is very likely the same primary document already cited, under that name, in this office's separate Ballona Creek Terminus Report as 'Courtney 1867-68 (Case No. 965): interior = irrigable, not estuarine' - one of that report's key baseline sources for the argument that the rancho's interior was never persistently tidal. If confirmed, this directly bridges this memo's Section 7 tidal-extent argument and the Terminus Report's independent hydrological argument to the same underlying primary map, which would be worth cross-referencing explicitly in both documents rather than treating them as separately-sourced parallel conclusions.

3a. The partition table as a living instrument, not a single document

v0.18 adopts a reframing of how this note treats the various 'tables of partition' encountered in the course of this research - the 1868 decree itself, the 1875-76 Case No. 2722 subdivision of the Estate of Agustin Machado's allotment, the 1887 Case No. 5630 partition (RESOLVED at v0.19; see Section 6 for the case identity and primary source), and the several Los Angeles County Assessor and Recorder map-book versions of the same allotments (Section 6). The earlier working assumption - implicitly treating each new table as a correction of, or a replacement for, 'the' partition table - understates what these documents actually are.

The evidence assembled to date supports a different model: there is no single, static Table of Partitions. There is a baseline legal event (the December 14, 1868 Young v. Machado decree, Case No. 965, and its associated 1868 partition map) followed by a documentary lineage of later, legitimate successor instruments, each produced by a specific subsequent event - probate and inheritance (Case No. 2722, 1875-76), road and railroad rights-of-way (the net-acreage deductions in Section 7b), further subdivision (the Port Ballona lot/block references), and routine Assessor/Recorder re-platting as parcels changed hands. Outside review (v1.59) flagged that this passage's opening sentence groups Case No. 5630 with these legal-succession instruments without the distinction the Roadmap draws: Case No. 5630 is legally separate property, not a successor partition of the same 1868 allotments, even though its own survey references the earlier partition's monuments. This note draws that distinction explicitly here: Case No. 2722 and the Assessor/Recorder re-platting are legal successors to the 1868 allotments; Case

No. 5630 is cadastrally connected to the earlier framework (its boundaries reference “Old Partition Stake” markers and adjoin land bordered by 1875-76 figures) without being a legal successor to it. Both relationships matter to the “living instrument” argument this section makes, but they are not the same relationship, and the one document each of them actually is should not be blurred. Each surviving table is a snapshot of the allotments’ legal state at a particular moment for a particular purpose, not an independent or competing account of the original 1868 division. Later tables should be read as documenting what happened to the 1868 allotments over time, not as evidence about what the 1868 decree itself said - for that, the earliest instrument tied directly to Case No. 965 remains authoritative.

Practical consequence for citation: where this note gives a name-and-acreage pair for an allotment, it should specify which generation of the table the figure comes from - e.g., ‘Manuel Valenzuela, 44.17 acres, per the 1868 baseline allotment’ as distinct from a later net-of-road-and-railroad figure for the same name found on an Assessor map book. Section 4/7b’s acreage figures are baseline (pre-deduction) figures unless stated otherwise; Section 7b’s ~0.38-acre and larger variable deductions are the later, net figures for the same allotments.

If this note’s collection of table-versions continues to grow, a separate, standing catalog - repository, estimated date, case numbers shown, recorder references, what kind of event produced that version, and whether it reflects acreage or right-of-way changes - would be a natural companion working document, distinct in scope from this memo, which remains focused on the 1858 survey and 1868 partition specifically.

v0.21’s direct examination of full-resolution photographs of both the 1868 and 1876 maps strengthens this reframing rather than complicating it. The 1876 map inherits the western strip allotments unchanged from 1868 while subdividing only the single Estate of Agustin Machado block into named heirs - visual, primary-source confirmation that Hansen’s 1876 work was a subdivision of one 1868 allotment, not a new rancho-wide partition. And the 1876 map carries its own case number (‘No. 2722’) directly in its title block, meaning the documentary lineage from Case No. 965 through Case No. 2722 through Case No. 5630 (Section 6) is now traceable through each map’s own self-citation of the proceeding that produced it, not only through later institutional catalog descriptions of those maps.

WORKING HYPOTHESIS, unconfirmed, added v1.35 - internal post-decree drift within a single case citation: this note’s model above accounts for different *case numbers* producing different generations of the table, but the v1.34 strip-acreage comparison surfaced a narrower possibility this model did not yet cover - that two instruments citing the *same* case (No. 2722) could still diverge internally over time, if individual heirs traded, sold, or otherwise adjusted adjoining strip boundaries by private conveyance after Hansen’s 1876 report, without that requiring a new partition suit or case number. This is offered as a hypothesis, not a finding: it is consistent with the specific pattern observed (the diverging names - Ascencion Machado, Vicenta M. de Lugo, Juan Machado, and Andres Machado - are four consecutive entries in the strip-fan ordering, the shape one might expect from neighboring strip-holders adjusting a shared boundary, rather than a rancho-wide event scattered evenly across all fourteen names), but it is circumstantial, not documentary. CONFIRMING THIS would require searching Los Angeles County Recorder deed and conveyance books for these four names, 1876 onward, for a recorded private trade

affecting these specific strips. That search is explicitly left as future research - not an open task this note is pursuing further. This note's own archival recovery has reached the limit of what direct, in-person retrieval by its author can practically establish; identifying this specific, answerable question precisely enough for a future researcher to pursue without re-deriving the groundwork is treated here as sufficient closure for this thread, consistent with this note's general approach to remaining open items - see Closing Reflection. DOWNGRADED, not withdrawn (v1.36): two developments weaken this hypothesis's circumstantial support without disposing of it entirely. First, an independent modern source (an LA City Bureau of Engineering land-base map, ZIMAS sheet 102B157) gives current cadastral figures for Juan and Andres Machado matching the v1.34 M.R. 3-204-209 reading, not the "established" Reference 55/69/70 transcription that this hypothesis was partly built to explain - a transcription-accuracy explanation for that specific divergence now has real independent support, which a private-trade explanation does not need to compete with. Second, the recovered C.F. 78/M.R. 17-77-79 instrument (former Reference 74, now consolidated into Reference 53) - initially a candidate documented mechanism for this hypothesis - turns out to name heirs (Erolinda C. de Yorba, human-confirmed at v1.37 - this passage previously carried the stale pre-v1.37 "Florinda" reading, corrected here - Manuela C. de Figueroa, and others) that do not obviously overlap with the four strip-holders in question, and its relationship to this specific divergence has not been established. The hypothesis is left in the record as a considered possibility rather than erased, per this note's correction-forward practice, but should not be read as this note's leading explanation for the Ascencion/Vicenta/Juan/ Andres divergence going into publication.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS, both outside reviewers, flagged not adopted (v1.40): the requester's background paper on the Talamantes/Wilson/ Sanford foreclosure sequence (Section 3, 1854-1863) prompted both outside reviewers, independently, to suggest the same extension of this section's "living instrument" framework - that the physical breakup represented by the 1868 and later partition maps may have been preceded by a legal and financial fragmentation of undivided ownership interests (mortgages, judgments, sheriff's sales) reaching back to 1854, before any partition map existed at all. This is a genuinely good fit for this section's existing argument and is recorded as a defined research question worth pursuing, consistent with both reviewers' explicit caution: it should be tested against the underlying instruments (the mortgage, the judgment, the sheriff's deed, the 1859 conveyance) before being treated as more than a hypothesis, exactly as this note has handled the internal-trade hypothesis above. Not adopted into this section's own account pending that verification.

4. The four land classes

Per the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868, executed by referees J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E. H. Boyd (Solano-Reeve Collection, Huntington Library; see Section 3 for the referee-name attribution added v0.14):

- First class: arable land with water for cultivation (i.e., irrigable from Ballona Creek [editorial gloss, not period wording]).

- Second class: arable land suitable for cultivation without water (dry farming [editorial gloss, not period wording]).
- Third class: pasture land (the terrain on which Mar Vista was later built [editorial/geographic gloss identifying the modern location, not period wording]).
- Fourth class: tide or overflowed land (beach and marsh).

Note: outside review (v1.59) flagged that the parenthetical glosses above, introduced under “Per the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868,” could read as though they were the Report’s own wording rather than this note’s later explanatory additions; the four class names themselves (“arable land with water for cultivation,” “pasture land,” “tide or overflowed land,” etc.) are treated as period source language, while the bracketed parentheticals are now marked explicitly as this note’s own glosses, consistent with the standing rule against silently imposing modern terminology on period sources.

Note: some secondary sources compress this to three categories (‘pasture,’ ‘irrigable,’ ‘bay’) rather than the four classes named in the Report of the Survey itself. The four-class version, sourced to the Huntington’s Solano-Reeve Collection, should be treated as the primary framework; the three-category paraphrase (Wikipedia, also mirrored in German) is likely a simplification and should not be used as the citable version of the classification scheme. PARTIAL CORROBORATION: the underlying Report of the Survey of Partition 1868 itself remains unverified directly, but two Huntington/Calisphere catalog entries independently describe parcels as, e.g., ‘3rd class land north of Ballona Road No. 2,’ confirming that a numbered land-class system through at least third class does appear on the primary partition map itself. The fourth class specifically was not located in these catalog snippets at the time this passage was written. SUBSEQUENTLY RESOLVED (v0.21): the full-resolution primary partition-map photograph (Reference 55) directly confirms the four-class table headers in the map’s own hand; the caution above no longer applies and the four-class framework can be cited with full confidence. v0.14’s search pass also located and newly cites the Huntington’s own finding aid for the Solano-Reeve Collection (mssSolano-Reeve; oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf2z09n5sv/entire_text/), which confirms the collection’s existence, provenance (purchased from Alfred Solano and Anna B. Reeve, May 1933), and lists an 1868 Hansen map entry titled ‘Map of the Rancho “La Ballona”’ among its numbered map series - a concrete finding-aid pointer for retrieving the Report of the Survey of Partition directly, rather than only its derivative maps.

- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.17, from a user-supplied photograph of the partition allotment table, Tier 1 cadastral record): the individual allotment acreages read directly from a Los Angeles County Assessor map book confirm that the referees equalized allotments by something other than simple area. The Talamantes/Valenzuela allotments split into two groups - approximately 25.24 acres (Gregoria Talamantes, Tomasa Talamantes, Pedro Talamantes, Jacinto Talamantes, Jesus Talamantes) and approximately 44.17 acres (Manuel Valenzuela, Lauriano Talamantes, and the joint Francisco & Dolores Machado allotment) - a near-doubling between the two groups. The later individual Machado-heir allotments (Francisco, Dolores, Susana M. Bernardo, Candelaria, Ascencion, Vicenta M. de Lugo, Juan, Domingo, Bernardino, Jose Juan, Andres, and

Jose de la Luz Machado) instead cluster tightly, each in the approximately 26.1-26.4 acre range, consistent with the 1875 Case No. 2722 partition's own apparent aim of near-equal division among that generation of heirs. Read together with Section 7b's argument that the four-class system existed to equalize value rather than acreage, the roughly 25/44-acre split among the earlier Talamantes/Valenzuela/Machado allotments is concrete numeric evidence that at least some 1868 allotments were sized to compensate for land-class composition, not divided by equal area - directly supporting, with a citable number, an argument this note previously made only from general reasoning.

4a. Verbatim synthesis fragment (for citation tracking)

The following passage is preserved verbatim as it was generated in chat, because it is the composite formulation the requester flagged for documentation. It is an assistant-authored synthesis, not a primary source, and should be treated as a paraphrase trail marker rather than a citable statement in any distributed document:

> *"first class (prime farmland near Ballona Creek), second class (arable without water), third class (pasture, where Mar Vista now sits), and fourth class (tide/overflowed land, including beach). Each of the 23 long, narrow parcels was designed to include a share of 'pasture,' 'irrigable,' and 'bay' land - the elongated shapes of the parcels you've likely seen on the partition map exist specifically because the referee was equalizing across classes, not just acreage."*

Source trail: this synthesis draws on the S. Ravi Tam excerpt (four-class list) and the Wikipedia 'Rancho La Ballona' article (three-category 'pasture/irrigable/bay' parcel description) merged into one sentence. Note the internal inconsistency it carries forward: it names four classes, then describes parcels as sharing three categories ('pasture,' 'irrigable,' 'bay') rather than four - the fourth-class 'tide/overflowed' land and the 'bay' category are likely the same thing described two ways, but this has not been confirmed against the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868 itself. Resolve before citing either version independently of the other.

5. Was the classification itself disputed?

Two distinct timelines, not to be merged:

5a. At partition (1865/1863-1868)

Dividing roughly 32 owners' interests fairly across four unevenly distributed land classes was evidently difficult enough to help account for the multi-year process and the unusual elongated parcel geometry. This was an allocation/equity exercise carried out by a court-appointed referee panel - now identifiable by name as J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E. H. Boyd (see Section 3) - not adversarial litigation over what the classes meant or where the class lines fell, though it is plausible that individual owners contested their allotments during the process. No specific instance of an owner formally objecting to a class

boundary has been located yet; this should be checked against the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868 itself if a copy or reproduction can be obtained from the Huntington.

5b. Twentieth century: Summa Corp. v. California ex rel. State Lands Commission, 466 U.S. 198 (1984)

This is the legally consequential fight, and it turns on the fourth class (tide/overflowed land):

- The 1839 grant contained a reservation permitting the grantees to enclose the property 'without prejudice to the traversing roads and servitudes.'
- At trial, California argued that under Las Siete Partidas (the law in effect at the time of the Mexican grant), this reservation was intended to preserve public rights in the tidelands within the rancho's boundaries - i.e., a public trust servitude reaching what had been fourth-class land in 1868.
- California's claimed public trust easement was argued to reach all land that was tidelands when California became a state (1850), regardless of the land's present condition (citing City of Long Beach v. Mansell, 3 Cal. 3d 462 (1970)).
- The 1873 federal patent to the Machado/Talamantes grantees made no mention of any public trust interest.
- The U.S. Supreme Court ruled for Summa Corp. (the private developer): California's asserted public trust easement could not be asserted after issuance of the 1873 federal patent, because an interest of that magnitude had to be presented during the Land Act of 1851 patent-confirmation proceedings to survive confirmation, and California (and its predecessors in interest) did not present it there. The Court assumed, rather than decided, that the lagoon had in fact been tidelands subject under Mexican law to the claimed servitude - outside review (v1.65) flagged the prior wording here as stating the Court's holding on the underlying tideland status more categorically than the opinion itself does; the actual holding concerns the procedural bar (the claim's presentation requirement), not an affirmative finding that Mexican law imposed the servitude in the first instance. A landowner's title, once confirmed under that process, is not subsequently burdened by an unasserted servitude.
- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION: the opinion's own footnote 2 states that the Rancho Ballona occupied approximately 14,000 acres and 'included a tidelands area of about 2,000 acres within its boundaries.' This is a directly citable primary-source figure - roughly 14 percent of the rancho - from a different proceeding addressing a different question (tideland status at California statehood in 1850, not the 1868 partition's own fourth-class acreage). It provides an independent order-of-magnitude comparison for Section 7c's argument that the tidal fraction was 'a small minority' of the rancho, not a direct measurement of the 1868 fourth-class acreage itself; this distinction, missing from an earlier draft of this bullet, is corrected here (v1.58) to

match the same correction already applied at Section 7c/7j. Cross-reference this figure into Section 7c.

Net: California's argument in Summa Corp. focused on lands alleged to have constituted tidelands at statehood (1850), which the state argued included what had been fourth-class land in the 1868 partition. The partition-era classification exercise (if any dispute attended it) was about equitable division among private co-owners; the Summa dispute, filed roughly 116 years later, was a sovereign-title/public-trust claim against a single successor-in-interest (Summa Corporation, successor to Howard Hughes interests) and is the only fully documented instance of formal litigation directly contesting a Ballona land-classification boundary.

Principal conclusions supported by current evidence

Before the open-items list below, a brief summary of what this note actually establishes, as distinct from what remains open:

- Hancock's 1858 survey and the Young v. Machado partition proceeding are distinct events with distinct legal purposes - a boundary/perimeter survey for patent confirmation, and a later equitable division among co-tenants - and should not be conflated, as they frequently are in secondary literature.
- No direct judicial challenge to Hancock's survey itself has yet been identified; the 1858-1860 record shows an administrative protest during confirmation proceedings, not district-court litigation over the survey.
- The four-class land classification originated with the 1868 partition process, not with the Hancock survey, which contains no internal land-type differentiation at all.
- The documentary evidence assembled to date supports intermittent rather than continuously open tidal conditions during the periods documented, with documented attempts to establish an engineered persistent connection beginning in the 1880s; when persistence was actually achieved is not established by the sources assembled here and remains open (see Section 7j).
- The 1868 partition was executed by a named referee panel (J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, E. H. Boyd, per the map's own title block - identified v0.14), distinct from Hancock (1858 perimeter survey) and from Hansen/Solano (1876 subdivision among Machado heirs).

6. Cross-cutting open items for future verification

- Resolve 1863 vs. 1865 petition-filing date for Young's suit against a primary docket record, not competing secondary paraphrases. UPDATED (v0.14): the 1863 side of the split now has two independent sources (Wikipedia and LMU's MS123 finding aid) against Wittenburg/Rolle-derived accounts for 1865. Pull the actual petition from LMU Hannon Library's MS123 collection

(Rancho La Ballona Property Records, 1868-1926; oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8k360c1/) - a real collection of Young-petition legal documents, not a secondary retelling.

- Resolve 23-section vs. 64-parcel description: determine whether this is a genuine two-stage process (decree framework, then implementation) or secondary-source compression of a single outcome. UPDATED (v0.14): LMU's MS123 finding aid independently describes '23 sections' with no mention of 64, aligning with Wikipedia and against the Cheviot Hills 64-parcel figure - shifts the balance toward the two-stage reading but does not resolve it.
- Locate and cite the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868 (Solano-Reeve Collection, Huntington) directly rather than through secondary paraphrase, for the four-class framework. UPDATED (v0.14): the Huntington's own finding aid for the Solano-Reeve Collection (mssSolano-Reeve) is now directly cited (oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf2z09n5sv/entire_text/), confirming the collection's existence and listing an 1868 Hansen map entry - a concrete retrieval pointer, though the Report itself has not yet been pulled.
- Determine whether a discrete lawsuit or administrative filing exists that specifically challenges the 1858 Hancock survey, as distinct from (a) the confirmation-proceeding protest and (b) Young v. Machado. Still open; no new material located v0.14 beyond the existing RG 49/Solano-Reeve leads.
- Per house sourcing rules: Wikipedia appears as a citation in several of the merged fragments above (marked where relevant) and should be replaced with primary or Tier-1 secondary sources (Cheviot Hills History/Weiss, Rolle 1952, Wittenburg 1973, Robinson 1941, Berkeley digicoll land case index, Huntington/Calisphere map records, the LMU Hannon Library finding aids, or the case reporters themselves) before any of this material is used in a corrigendum or public-facing document.
- Confirm exact case caption and citation format for Case No. 965 against the decree or the 1876/1868 partition map title blocks rather than secondary retellings.
- RESOLVED (v0.14): the referee panel that executed the 1868 Report of the Survey of Partition is now identified by name - J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E. H. Boyd - per the partition map's own title block as cataloged by the Huntington/Calisphere (calisphere.org/item/fe0c51025e6a549d2da89b1b5ef68dfc/). Carried into Sections 3-5.
- RESOLVED (v0.14): the Berkeley Bancroft docket identifiers and the January 28, 1857 appeal-dismissal date are now confirmed directly against the Berkeley digital collection's own case-file record (digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/264493), including two new identifiers (Toma 43, 44; Expediente 184) not previously carried in this note.
- Determine the corporate relationship between the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company (officers James Campbell and S. P. Rees; 1886 Ship Canal/Wharf/Dock franchise holder) and Moye L. Wicks's Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company (organized 1886,

credited in secondary sources with the dredging and 1887 harbor opening) - same enterprise, affiliated entities, or separate overlapping efforts. UPDATED (v0.14, more data but still unresolved): a Cheviot Hills History reprint of a 1939 calendar names the 1886 company's organizers as 'M. L. Wicks, H. W. Mills, R. F. Lotspeich, Frank Sabichi and others' with no mention of Campbell, Rees, or Mesmer, and separately describes 'a right of way ... granted the California Central Railway Company (Santa Fe)' - a third corporate name distinct from both the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company and the Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company. Neither Campbell nor Rees has yet been tied to Wicks, Mills, Lotspeich, or Sabichi in any source reviewed. This now looks more like three overlapping corporate names (railroad franchise holder, harbor-development company, and a right-of-way grantee) than a simple two-party question, and should not be resolved without a primary corporate record.

- Reconcile the dredging timeline: secondary sources describe a channel already cut by 1885 and a first passenger train arriving August 24, 1887 (implying a working harbor); the primary September 1887 USC&GS survey describes a dredger still failing to open a self-scouring channel as of August 29-September 19, 1887. Determine whether this is one continuous struggling project, two distinct dredging campaigns, or an error in the secondary rail-opening date.

- Locate and review the 1875 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey by 'Asst. Chase' referenced in the Westdahl note as the base topography for the 1887 sketch - this is an independent, pre-harbor-development federal survey of the lagoon and may be the best available primary source for the lagoon's undisturbed tidal extent, distinct from Hancock's 1858 perimeter and the 1868 partition classes. STRONG CANDIDATE IDENTIFIED, still Tier 6/provisional: a companion Geometric Uncertainty report on U.S. Coast Survey T-Sheet T1432b (West Beach to Vicinity of Santa Monica) identifies its own surveyor, per Grossinger et al. (2011), as A. W. Chase, at a scale of 1:20,000 - unusually small for the region and explicitly flagged by Grossinger et al. as anomalous. Same surveyor surname, same anomalous scale, same locality as Westdahl's 'Asst. Chase... 1875' reference; the only discrepancy is the year (1875 vs. T1432b's 1876), plausibly a survey-year/engraving-year offset or two closely related field seasons. Independent review confirmed this reading (see Section 9 for how). This should be logged as a strong, named candidate rather than a confirmed identification - confirm directly against Grossinger et al. 2011 (pp. 20-23) or Coast Survey registry records for an explicit 1875/T1432b equation before relying on it.

- Pull Los Angeles County Assessor tax/valuation records for the 1870s-1880s, if extant, to corroborate the differential-taxation-by-land-class point in Section 7b. Not located v0.14.

- If Section 7k's contradiction (the 1886 petition/franchise's own 'connect Ballona Lake with the Pacific Ocean' language versus a full-tidal-restoration premise) is developed further for the Botanical Notations corrigenda, source it strictly to the petition, franchise resolution, and USC&GS survey text - do not attribute or quote the point to any individual or private correspondence, per standing instruction.

- Transcribe and incorporate “Ghosts of Old Ballona: Moye Wicks’ Dream, Will Tell” - likely candidate for resolving the still-open Wicks/Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company relationship and for cross-dating the Tell drainage cut against the 1886-87 harbor works. Not yet transcribed.
- Confirm publication date and masthead of the “Marshy Fields” clipping (Section 7h) before using it as anything more than corroborating context.
- Determine whether the 1872 Tell cut (Section 7g, western side of the lake, near the later Del Rey Hotel site) was at or near the same location as the 1886 franchise point (1,000 feet west of the NW corner of Rancho Sausal Redondo) or a separate barrier-beach breach.
- If the 1872 episode is used evidentially, carry forward the caveats as given: the Santa Monica Bay tide state at the specific hour is unknown and could have been unusually low, and the lake’s elevation may have been anomalously high from that season’s antecedent rainfall - so the account is strong evidence for that particular flood-season moment, not to be overstated as a year-round or average condition.
- Attribute the ‘Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica interests’ identification of the protesting parties in Section 2 to an extrinsic source, or flag it explicitly as this note’s own inference - Summa Corp. v. California itself names them only as ‘the property owners immediately north of the Rancho Ballona’ and does not name the adjacent rancho. Not located v0.14.
- Reconcile Rolle’s ‘law of 1859’ (Section 2) against the Act of July 1, 1864, which Summa Corp.’s own footnote 3 cites for the same survey-objection procedure - check Rolle’s 1952 text directly rather than assuming ‘1859’ is correct or silently substituting ‘1864.’ Not located v0.14; the physical/scanned Rolle article remains the only path to resolution.
- NEW open item (v0.14): reconcile Louis Mesmer’s role, if any, in the 1886-87 harbor effort. Wikipedia’s ‘Port Ballona’ and ‘Mesmer family of California’ articles describe Mesmer as a co-founder/partner of Wicks in 1887, while the Cheviot Hills History 1939-calendar reprint names five other 1886 organizers (Wicks, Mills, Lotspeich, Sabichi, ‘and others’) without Mesmer. The same Wikipedia article on the Mesmer family instead dates Mesmer’s substantial Rancho La Ballona land interest to February 23, 1890 - an inheritance from the estate of Andres Bristwalter, a Mesmer business partner - which post-dates the 1886-87 harbor push and would argue against a founding role. A third source (Santa Monica Land and Water Company archives) gives yet a different company name and date: a ‘Ballona Development Company’ formed in 1888 by ‘Moses L. Wicks and his partner Louis Mesmer.’ All three accounts are Tier 3-4; none should be relied on over a primary corporate record.
- NEW open item (v0.14): the ‘Marshy Fields’ Tell-to-Duffy handoff date. A Tier 3-4 real-estate-history page states that ‘in 1874, when the widow of Augustin Machado brought suit to evict Tell, he packed up and moved to Santa Monica,’ and that ‘in 1877 an Irishman named Michael Duffy opened Hunter’s Cottage’ in Tell’s old location (southbayoceanfront.com/explore-playa-

del-rey-california/). This gives a specific 1874 eviction date not previously in this note, alongside the existing 1877 Duffy-opening date from the 'Marshy Fields' clipping - worth checking against the clipping's own text for consistency once its masthead/date is confirmed.

- Search General Land Office records - Surveyor General correspondence, field approvals, survey objections, and patent files - as the most likely venue for finally resolving the Hancock-survey-dispute chronology in Section 2. The BLM GLO Records site (glorecords.blm.gov) is confirmed live and searchable but requires a direct interactive search rather than a web search engine query; not completed v0.14.

- Pull the federal land patent database record for the 1873 Ballona patent directly, to tie acreage, survey, and patent authority to a primary document rather than secondary descriptions. Not completed v0.14 (see GLO item above).

- Consult California State Lands Commission historical materials as secondary legal context on how public-trust arguments were framed in Summa-type litigation, to sharpen Section 5b's legal characterization. Not located v0.14.

- Search additional 1868-era newspapers beyond the Los Angeles Star and Herald already in this note - the Los Angeles Express, San Francisco Bulletin, and Daily Alta California - for partition reporting and survey notices that might independently date the Young v. Machado petition and resolve the 1863/1865 split. Not located v0.14.

- Re-verify the September 1887 USC&GS sketch transcription (Section 7f), particularly the 'entire tidal area of the lagoon' passage, against the original scan or a second independent reading - it is user-transcribed period handwriting and now carries real evidentiary weight for the Section 7c tidal-extent argument, so it should get the same scan-vs-transcription caution already applied to the 'Marshy Fields' clipping (Section 7h). PARTIALLY ADDRESSED (v0.15): the companion T1432b report's citation of Grossinger et al. (2011) independently corroborates the substance and near-exact wording of a related Westdahl passage (the 'narrow channel at low water' quote; see Section 7f) - this covers a different sentence from the same 1887 sketch, not the 'entire tidal area of the lagoon' passage itself, so the original scan check for that specific passage remains outstanding.

- NEW (v0.15): verify Hancock's 1858 field-note quote describing the inner bay's connection with the sea as 'often obstructed' (Section 7d) directly against the original field notes, cited by the companion T1432b report as County Surveyor Volume G5, pages 298-314, certified by Theo. Wagner, U.S. Surveyor-General, February 17, 1882. Currently logged as Tier 2 (via the companion report's citation), not yet Tier 1.

- RESOLVED (v0.17): 'Case 2722,' found annotated on user-supplied Los Angeles County Assessor map-book photographs alongside the Ramona S. de Machado allotment, is District Court Case No. 2722, Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al. - the 1875 intra-family partition suit dividing the Estate of Agustin Machado's allotment among his heirs, per a Huntington Digital

Library catalog record independently located and checked directly against the Huntington's own site (not merely relayed from a search-engine snippet). See Section 3 for full detail and citation. This was investigated as one of two competing hypotheses (later District Court litigation vs. an internal Los Angeles County Assessor map-book series number unrelated to any lawsuit); the litigation hypothesis is the one supported by direct, independently-checked evidence.

- RESOLVED (v0.19): 'Case 5630,' found annotated on the Assessor map-book photographs near later re-platting of the same allotments and Port Ballona lot/block references, is Superior Court of Los Angeles County Case No. 5630, Agustin Cota vs. Erolinda C. de Yorba et al. - a March 1887 partition of in-town lots among Cota, Yorba, and related family members, distinct from and later than both the 1868 rancho-wide partition (Case No. 965) and the 1875-76 Machado-heir partition (Case No. 2722). This is a further data point supporting the Section 3a living-instrument reframe: at least three separate, sequential partition proceedings (965, 2722, 5630) now sit in the documentary record for pieces of the original 1868 allotments. RESOLUTION HISTORY: an initial claim about this case (from GeminiAI, an AI system this note treats as Tier 5/excluded per the Source Hierarchy) was investigated, found to conflict with a Tier 1 acreage figure already in this note, and provisionally rejected (see the prior draft of this item and Section 9). The requester subsequently located and directly inspected the actual primary record - Los Angeles County Public Works, Miscellaneous Records Book 17, page 77 (MR017-077.pdf) - which confirmed the case, parties, referee, surveyor, and date are real, and identified the specific nature of the error: a misplaced decimal (Agustin Cota's allotment is 15.0205 acres, not 1.50205 acres as first reported) and a separate confabulation (a second surveyor, 'C.E. Lot,' who does not appear on the actual map - the title block instead credits a single surveyor, J. A. Bernol, holding both the Surveyor and Civil Engineer designations, 'Sur. and C.E.'). This case is now resolved on the strength of the requester's own direct reading of the primary document, not on the AI-system claim that first pointed toward it - see Section 9 for the full resolution history and what this episode illustrates about verifying AI-sourced leads.

- Per a direct photograph of the MR017-077.pdf title block, independently read by two reviewers (v0.20): 'MAP Showing those parts of the Rancho La Ballona in the suit of Agustin Cota vs Eralinda C. de Yorba et al in the Superior Court of Los Angeles Co State of California Case No 5630 according to the allotment made by M. F. Coronel Esq. appointed Sole Refferee in Decree of Partition Surveyed March A.D. 1887 by J. A. Bern[a/o]l Sur. and C.E.' (the doubled-f 'Refferee' is the drafter's own period spelling, preserved verbatim rather than silently corrected). Confirmed allotments: Agustin Cota, 15.0205 acres; Francisco Cota, Maria C. de Valdez, and Ramona C. de [surname uncertain - Lopez or Valenzuela], 1.0014 acres each. This is now a photograph of the primary document itself, not a transcription of it, and the two independent readings agree on every word except the surveyor's surname (see below) - a stronger evidentiary footing than the scan-vs-transcription caution applied elsewhere in this note (the 'Marshy Fields' clipping, the September 1887 USC&GS sketch), where only a single reading exists.

- NEW (v0.19): determine whether the Agustin Cota of Case No. 5630 (15.0205-acre in-town allotment, 1887) is the same individual as the Augustin Cota of the 1868 partition table (23.28-acre rural allotment, Section 4) - plausible given the shared name and era, but not yet confirmed, and the two acreages describe different parcels either way.

- UPGRADED (v0.20): a direct photograph of the MR017-077.pdf title block (not merely a transcription of it) is now in hand and has been independently read by two reviewers. Both readings agree on the wording, including the doubled-f period spelling ‘Refferee’ (preserved verbatim per this note’s general practice of not silently correcting period spelling). RESOLVED: the ‘second surveyor’ question raised when this case was first investigated (Section 9) is resolved against a second surveyor existing at all - the title block reads ‘…by J. A. Bern[a/o]l Sur. and C.E.,’ which both reviewers read as two professional-title abbreviations (Surveyor and Civil Engineer) describing the one named surveyor, not a surname beginning a second person’s name; the line shows no visual sign of being cut off. STILL OPEN: the surveyor’s surname itself is genuinely ambiguous in the source hand between ‘Bernal’ (the more common California surname) and ‘Bernol’ as read directly from the image - this is not a case of one reader simply misreading it, and both spellings should be carried as live possibilities rather than resolved by choosing the statistically likelier surname. A higher-resolution scan or the uncropped original sheet would settle this decisively.

- NEW (v0.17): identify the specific road and railroad corridor responsible for the acreage deductions visible on the Machado-heir allotments in the Assessor map-book photographs (Section 7b) - a nearly constant ~0.38-acre deduction per allotment followed by a larger, variable deduction consistent with a diagonal railroad crossing. Determine whether this is the same Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company franchise already documented in Section 7e (1886), a later successor line, or an unrelated corridor.

- NEW (v0.17): the same Assessor map-book photographs reference ‘Lot 22, Block 27, Port Ballona’ as a recorded subdivision. Locate the recorded town plat or subdivision map for Port Ballona (if one survives) and its filing date, to give the Section 7e Wicks/Mesmer harbor-town discussion a concrete recorded-subdivision anchor distinct from the promotional and secondary sources currently cited there.

- NEW (v0.17): a user-supplied georeferenced overlay (Tier 6, the requester’s own analytical product, not a period source) places Centinela Creek at or near the western edge of the Ballona partition strips. Centinela is the namesake creek of the neighboring Rancho Aguaje de la Centinela (a separate 1837 grant to Ygnacio Machado), not Rancho La Ballona. Determine whether Centinela’s mouth falls inside the Ballona partition boundary or marks the boundary line itself, and whether this bears on the still-unattributed ‘Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica interests’ protest discussed in Section

- NEW, DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE (v0.21): resolve whether ‘December 14th 1867’ (the referee-appointment date on the 1868 map’s own title block) and ‘December 14 1868’ (the decree date

this note has cited throughout, per the 1876 map) describe two genuinely distinct dated events one year apart, or whether one of the two primary sources contains a transcription or engraving error. See Section 3 for full detail. This bears on how precisely this note can date the original Case No. 965 proceeding and should be resolved against the original decree and appointment order, not assumed either way.

- NEW (v0.21): obtain a higher-resolution scan or the original of the 1868 partition map ('Courtney Map') to confirm the individual Talamantes/Valenzuela acreage figures in its List of Partition table, several of which were only partially legible in this pass's (v0.21) examination. The Estate of Agustin Machado (4,224.16 acres) and John D. Young (1,733.42 acres) figures are high-confidence; the smaller individual allotments are not yet citable with the same confidence.

- CORRECTED STRUCTURAL NOTE (v0.22): the Los Angeles District Court was abolished by the 1879 California Constitution effective 1880, with civil jurisdiction transferring to the new Superior Court - but on the evidence of an OAC finding aid describing the actual surviving Los Angeles court-records collection, this did not carry old case numbers forward into a single continuous series. District Court civil cases in Los Angeles ran roughly #1-5431 (1850-1879); Superior Court civil cases began a fresh series, roughly #2-75782 (1880-1910). Read against that structure: Case No. 965 (1868) and Case No. 2722 (1875-76) are both District Court-era numbers, consistent with predating 1880; Case No. 5630 (1887, Section 6) is a Superior Court-era number, consistent with postdating 1880 - the three case numbers cleanly track the actual 1880 court reorganization rather than being coincidental. An earlier version of this note (via a research pass) suggested District Court cases simply retained their numbers after 1880; that specific claim did not hold up against the finding aid's own description of two separate numbering series and should not be repeated.

- Index-level corroboration (v0.22), subject to the index-handling rule below: a Los Angeles-area court-case cross-reference index reviewed by a research pass lists an entry for Case No. 965 ('Young - vs - Machado … Partition Map of Ro Ballona') and an entry for Case No. 5630 giving a specific filing date for the mounted map - 'Filed May 31, [18]87' - about two months after the March 1887 survey date already confirmed from the map itself (Section 6). The filing date is a plausible, additive detail (a recording date distinct from a survey date, the same kind of gap already documented elsewhere in this note between survey and recordation), but it comes from the same index pass that also produced several specific errors on this same case (below) and is logged here as unverified pending independent confirmation, not as resolved fact.

- METHODOLOGICAL RULE ADOPTED (v0.22): a court-case cross-reference index, reviewed by a research pass, produced a summary of Case No. 5630 containing four specific errors when checked against this note's own photographed primary source (Section 6, v0.20-v0.21): a fabricated second defendant ('E. Hinde'), a misread referee name ('Coroner' for 'Coronel'), a fabricated specific survey day ('March 9') where the primary source gives only the month, and a slightly altered acreage figure. On being shown the primary-source photograph directly, the same research pass correctly retracted all four errors and proposed a standing rule this note

now adopts: court indexes, catalogs, and finding aids may be used to corroborate a case's existence, rough date, and filing context, but any specific name, date, or figure must be sourced to the primary document itself (a photograph, transcript, or original), never to an index entry alone. This applies retroactively to every case discussed in this note (965, 2722, 5630) and prospectively to any future case identified by index alone before a primary document is obtained.

- NEW LEAD (v0.22), unverified: the same index reportedly lists a probate matter, Case No. 20244, 'Estate of Ascencion Machado, deceased in Rancho La Ballona,' with J.A. Bernal named as referee - the same surveyor/referee surname (spelling still open, Section 6) already associated with Case No. 5630. If confirmed, this would be a fourth documented proceeding in the sequence and would strengthen the pattern of Bernal/Bernol's recurring role in later Ballona-area partitions. Per the index-handling rule above, this is logged as an unverified lead only, worth pulling the actual probate file for, not as a citable fact.

- NEW (v0.21): confirm whether the 1868 map uploaded to this project under the filename 'Courtney Map' is the same primary source cited as 'Courtney 1867-68 (Case No. 965)' in this office's separate Ballona Creek Terminus Report - if so, this bridges two independent work products (this partition memo and the Terminus Report's hydrological argument) to a single underlying primary document, and both should cross-reference the same source rather than treat it as two separately-sourced findings.

- NEW (v1.23), DEFERRED - distinct future companion piece, not this memo: the requester's in-person Norwalk research also surfaced a certified copy of an April 10, 1905 Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors order (recorded April 17, 1905, at the request of Beach Land Co.), vacating and abandoning portions of Playa Street (Townsite of Playa del Rey, Book 2, Pages 63-66 of Maps, on the petition of Joseph Mesmer et al.) and separately vacating Marine Avenue, Esplanade, Lagoon Crossing, Lakeview Avenue, Howland Street, and Calumet Street in the Centinela Road District. Signed by C.G. Keyes, County Clerk (by J.H. Parker, Deputy), recorded by Calvin Hartwell, County Recorder (by a deputy County Surveyor). This is early-20th-century townsite subdivision and street-vacation history for Playa del Rey - related to the same rancho lands and touching the same coastal area as References 71/72, but a different subject (urban platting, decades later) than this memo's scope (the 1868/ 1876 partition and the historic creek course). Logged here as a lead for a distinct future companion piece on Playa del Rey townsite history, not folded into this memo's References; revisit if and when that piece is undertaken. SUBSTANTIATED WITH PRIMARY PHOTOGRAPHS (v1.36): the requester has since supplied direct photographs of this material - the Playa Street vacation plat and minutes, and the separate Marine Avenue/Centinela Road District vacation order - both dated April 10, 1905, both signed by C.G. Keyes as described. The deferral to a future companion piece stands; this note records the photographs as in hand for whenever that piece is undertaken, not as a reason to revisit the deferral now. One direct cross-reference is worth preserving here regardless of the deferral: the townsite plat's own left margin reads "Southerly line allotment of Jose de la Luz Machado, R[anch]o La Ballona" - an on-sheet tie between the 1905 townsite survey and one specific

named heir from the 1876 partition (Reference 70, Section 3a) that a future companion piece should not have to re-discover. SEE ALSO the following item: the 1902 Playa del Rey townsite map itself appears to trace an underlying M.R. 3-204-209-type reference map, adding a fourth apparent variant to the multiple-copies problem below.

- NEW MAJOR OPEN ITEM (v1.27), CONFIRMED WITH SPECIFICS (v1.28), REFINED (v1.29), EXTENDED (v1.30), MAJOR ADDITION (v1.31): the requester has identified at least three non-identical manually-transcribed copies filed under the “M.R. 3-204-209” citation (see Reference 70), differing in the lagoon drawing, dune/hillside contours, Ballona Creek path notation, and handwriting - confirmed by LADPW staff as a product of manual, pre-reprographic-era transcription rather than mechanical copying. A direct comparison at v1.28-29 examined a specific instance: References 69 and 70 - the two copies this note has treated throughout as interchangeable - render the dune/lagoon feature near the coastline with visibly different drafting conventions (beaded loop-chains and scribble-curls on Reference 69, versus continuous hachured loops and stippled ovals on Reference 70), but higher-resolution comparison at v1.29 found the underlying feature count and placement broadly consistent between them - see Reference 70 for the full description and the important distinction between “different rendering convention” and “different underlying content.” At v1.30, a full-sheet view of CSLA-11 (Reference 56) added a third data point at the same location: dotted/stippled outline ovals. At v1.31, a high-resolution color photograph of the physical CSLA-11 sheet confirmed this convention at close range and - independently, and more significantly - a woven-fabric support with age-consistent foxing and a hand-applied blue wash for the watercourse, materially supporting (though not confirming) the v1.30 LMU lead that CSLA-11 may be the original. The same v1.31 image also produced this note’s first purely numeric evidence of copy divergence: five of thirteen strip-parcel acreage figures comparable between CSLA-11 and this note’s prior transcription (from References 55/69/70) differ, in some cases substantially - see Reference 56 for the full comparison, and Reference 72 for the resulting caveat on that entry’s “digit for digit” match claim, which held against this note’s prior transcription but not, it now appears, against every known copy. A fourth apparent variant underlies the 1902 Playa del Rey townsite map (previous item). None of these copies has yet been individually catalogued as its own Reference, and this note does not yet know which copy its own existing photographs (Reference 70, v1.15/1.22/ 1.23) depict relative to the others, or whether any one of the (at least three, now possibly four counting CSLA-11) known copies can be identified as the original recorded instrument as opposed to a later re-transcription - though CSLA-11’s physical characteristics are, for the first time, a real (if unconfirmed) candidate answer to that question. This bears directly on every specific reading this note has drawn from Reference 70 (magnetic variation, the Ygnacio citation, Table of Partition figures, the lagoon/creek depiction used in the Station 83 discussion, Section 3) - those readings remain accurate for the copy actually photographed. The v1.29 refinement was, on balance, reassuring for this note’s existing Section 3/7 findings; the v1.31 numeric findings are a genuine escalation past that reassurance, since they show real content divergence, not merely differing drafting convention, on at least some figures. NEXT STEPS: photograph each known copy in full and individually, at consistent scale and orientation

to allow direct overlay comparison rather than isolated crops; obtain a full-resolution CSLA-11 image from LMU and directly ask LMU staff for their basis for suggesting it may be an original, rather than relying on the claim secondhand; if CSLA-11's original status can be confirmed, treat its figures as authoritative pending further evidence and flag every other copy's divergent figures accordingly; catalog each copy as its own Reference with a distinguishing label; identify, if possible, which is the earliest/original recorded instrument via the Recorder's own accession records; and re-examine this note's existing Section 3/7 findings on the lagoon and creek depiction against whichever copy or copies are found most authoritative. See the TARC research directive (Purpose and status, point 6) for the general principle this item is governed by. MAJOR UPDATE (v1.33): the requester has now personally located, examined, and photographed the physical M.R. 3-204-209 sheet at the Recorder's Norwalk facility (Reference 70), and reports that LADPW Land Records staff advised this is the source/original from which other known versions were manually transcribed. This changes the shape of this open item without closing it: it is no longer simply "multiple copies disagree, origin unknown" but "a stated original is now identified, against which other transcriptions can in principle be checked" - though the v1.30-31 LMU-sourced lead that CSLA-11 may itself be an original has not been withdrawn and sits in unresolved tension with the LADPW statement (see Reference 70 for both, stated separately). NEXT STEPS revised accordingly: the priority next comparison is Recorder-held M.R. 3-204-209 (as the LADPW-identified source) against CSLA-11, against Reference 69's C.F. 64 manifestation, and against the RW-series figures (Reference 72) - in that order - rather than treating all known copies as equally unplaced relative to one another. A first attempt at reading the strip-parcel acreage figures directly off the newly photographed M.R. 3-204-209 sheet was made at v1.33 but not adopted as a finding, pending the requester's own confirmation of the name-to-figure pairing - see Reference 70. CONFIRMED (v1.34): a straight-on, ruled photograph of the same table resolved the pairing ambiguity; this note's reading and Perplexity Computer's independent reading of it match exactly, including a figure (Jose de la Luz Machado) captured for the first time. Against this confirmed control, two of the three previously-flagged names (Juan and Andres Machado) now match CSLA-11 exactly rather than the "established" Reference 55/69/70 transcription - the first evidence in this investigation pointing to which side of a specific divergence is likely the drift, rather than leaving both sides equally unplaced. Ascencion Machado remains a genuine three-way mismatch even against the confirmed control and is not resolved. This does not close the broader multiple-copies question - Reference 72's RW-series comparison and a full-sheet overlay comparison across all known copies remain outstanding - but it is the first specific, confirmed answer this note has to "which figure is right" for any individual name in the divergence set. COMPLICATED (v1.35): a sharper, independently-supplied photograph of CSLA-11 itself produced a different reading for the same two names than the v1.31 CSLA-11 photograph did - Juan Machado and Andres Machado read 26.2384/26.32910 on this new crop, matching the "established" Reference 55/69/70 figures rather than the M.R. 3-204-209 figures the v1.34 "significant result" rested on. Two non-identical readings of CSLA-11 itself, taken from two different photographs at two different times, now exist for the same two names, and this note does not treat the sharper image as automatically superseding the earlier one without independent re-verification - both are recorded, neither is adopted as

authoritative, and the v1.34 “significant result” language should be read as provisional pending that re-verification, not withdrawn outright. WORKING HYPOTHESIS offered (v1.35, see Section 3a in full): rather than treating this purely as a transcription-accuracy problem, the divergence may instead reflect genuine internal drift within Case No. 2722’s own strip allotments over time - private conveyances among neighboring heirs after 1876 - which would mean more than one of these readings could be independently accurate, each for a different moment, rather than exactly one being correct and the others being errors. This is circumstantial and unconfirmed; see Section 3a for the supporting observation and what would be needed to confirm it. SCOPE DECISION (v1.35): this note’s author has taken personal, in-person archival recovery as far as practically intended for this phase of the project. The remaining next steps below - full-sheet, consistent-scale photography of every known copy; a full-resolution CSLA-11 image and LMU’s own stated reasoning for the original-instrument suggestion; identification of the earliest/original recorded instrument via the Recorder’s own accession records; and the deed/conveyance search described in Section 3a - are recorded as precisely-specified open questions **for future researchers**, not as this note’s own active next steps. v1.35’s remaining TARC rounds were quality-control passes over the record as it now stands, not further primary-source acquisition. PARTIALLY SUPERSEDED (v1.36): despite the v1.35 scope decision, the requester subsequently supplied the complete M.R. 3-204-209 six-page set (pages 204-209) as a single document, which is exactly the full-sheet photography item listed above as deferred - that specific item is therefore complete, not future work; see Reference 70 for what it settled and what it corrected. The deed/conveyance search, the LMU full-resolution image, and the C.F. 16 recorded-copy search remain deferred as stated at v1.35. SUPERSEDED CORRECTION, ITSELF NOW CORRECTED (v1.50): this passage previously stated (v1.46) that the C.F. 16 recorded-copy search “was subsequently resolved for its core citation at v1.42 and elevated to two-independent-reading confirmation at v1.45… and no longer belongs on this deferred list.” That statement is wrong on the substance, not merely stale on the evidentiary tier of “(PAT 1-309/310)” (which is now two-independent-reading confirmed as of v1.49, not “still awaiting a second independent reading” as the superseded text also said). Direct primary-source retrieval at v1.48 established that the ZIMAS citation this note had treated as resolving the C.F. 16 item was, in substance, pointing to a different instrument: “(PAT 1-309/310)” identifies Reference 76, Henry Hancock’s separate 1858/1873 patent for the whole rancho, not a recorded copy of the 1868 Case No. 965 partition map. The C.F. 16/Case No. 965 recorded-copy question itself was never actually resolved and belongs back on this deferred list, where it is restored above. Outside review (ChatGPT) caught this on a second targeted reconciliation pass, after this note’s own v1.46 correction had itself carried forward the mistaken substantive reading it was trying to fix at the time - a useful illustration that a correction can itself need correcting, and that this note’s practice of layering corrections forward rather than editing history is what makes that catchable. See Reference 73 for the full evidentiary detail: the citation string is confirmed accurate, and separately, confirmed to point elsewhere. STALE LIST CORRECTED (v1.46), NOW SUPERSEDED (v1.50): outside review (ChatGPT), on a targeted reconciliation pass against the v1.45 edits, flagged that this list still named the C.F. 16 item as deferred after the document’s own record elsewhere had already resolved its core citation - corrected at v1.46 without altering

the underlying v1.36-v1.45 findings, which were already correct at their own locations. That v1.46 correction is itself now superseded by the v1.50 correction above, per this note's standing practice of never silently editing an already-made correction - each layer stays visible in sequence. This is not treating the v1.35 scope decision as reopened generally, only as overtaken on this one specific point by material the requester happened to already have. C.F. 78/M.R. 17-77-79 RESOLVED AS A CITATION, raising a new open question in its place: this note's multi-reviewer reading disagreement over this annotation is settled at "17-77-79" (Reference 70), and the underlying instrument was recovered (originally catalogued as Reference 74). That closed one thread and opened a more consequential one - whether that instrument was the same physical material as Reference 53, already in this memo for unrelated reasons. RESOLVED (v1.37): it is the same material. The requester's subsequent recovery of the full three-page county set and the bound original in color confirmed it; former Reference 74 is retired and merged into Reference 53 - see Reference 53 for the consolidated account, including the Bernal/Bernol finding: the original hand-drawn volume reads "Bernal," human-confirmed by the requester against two independent photographs; this note's own reading of the county's separate monochrome copy reads "Bernol," unconfirmed. Both stand as a genuine, now-confirmed artifact-vs-copy divergence rather than a single unresolved ambiguity.

7. From Hancock's monolithic perimeter to internal land-class division, and documentary evidence for later engineered tidal connection

This section documents the analytical distinction between what the 1858 Hancock survey was chartered to do and what the 1868 partition later did with the land inside that perimeter, and the documentary evidence this note has assembled that the 'tidal' character of the rancho's western/southwestern margin was, before the engineering interventions discussed below, more likely intermittent than persistently open - a conclusion bounded by what the assembled record shows rather than a claim of historical certainty (see 7j for the fully qualified statement; outside review, v1.59, flagged this opening sentence and the section title above as retaining pre-v1.57 overclaimed language after the body's own conclusions had already been corrected).

7a. Hancock's charge: a single perimeter, not an internal classification

Hancock's 1858 survey (Section 1) was a boundary survey performed under the confirmation process required by the 1851 California Land Act: its job was to fix the exterior perimeter of the grant so a patent could issue, not to characterize what was inside that perimeter. The result, as carried on the 1858 plat and the later partition maps, is a single monolithic polygon - what can usefully be called the 'inner bay' or rancho perimeter - with no internal differentiation of land type, quality, or value. That was correctly Hancock's charge and he executed it as chartered; the absence of internal classification in his survey is not an omission on his part, it is simply outside the scope of a perimeter/boundary survey.

7b. Internal differentiation emerges later, driven by ownership division and valuation/taxation

The internal four-class land-quality framework (Section 4) did not exist in Hancock's 1858 work. It was created at the 1868 partition, for a different purpose entirely: dividing single ownership of the whole perimeter among approximately 32 co-tenants required some method of equalizing shares, and the various land types inside the perimeter were not interchangeable - first-class irrigable land, second-class dry-farmable land, third-class pasture, and fourth-class tide/overflowed land carried different commercial value for period ranching and farming use. The four-class structure, together with materially unequal acreages among some allotments, is consistent with and strongly suggests an effort to equalize allotment value rather than raw acreage; outside review (v1.65) flagged that the primary source material this note has directly examined does not itself state that rationale in the referees' own words, and this passage is tightened accordingly - the inference from unequal acreage plus differing class labels to a value-equalization purpose is this note's own reasonable synthesis, not a rationale the Report of the Survey of Partition expressly articulates. It is reasonable to expect that those value differences would also have affected later tax assessment once land was individually owned, but outside review (v1.61) flagged the earlier "underlying economic engine that required the four-class system to exist at all…and correspondingly equitable…tax assessment going forward" phrasing as presenting that second, prospective-taxation proposition with the same confidence as the first, established one, when the FLAG immediately below shows the tax-roll evidence needed to support it has not been located. The equitable-division rationale is a well-supported inference from the evidence already assembled, not a documented statement of intent; the taxation consequence remains a reasonable expectation, not yet a documented finding. FLAG: the specific assessment/tax rolls that would document this differential taxation by class have not yet been pulled; if available (Los Angeles County Assessor archives, 1870s-1880s), they would directly corroborate this point. Not located as of v0.14's search pass, nor in any later revision.

- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.17, from user-supplied photographs of Los Angeles County Assessor map books, Tier 1 cadastral records): later re-platting sheets covering the Machado-heir allotments show a road and railroad right-of-way cutting across the strips, with each allotment's acreage recalculated downward twice in sequence - first by a nearly constant deduction of approximately 0.38 acres per allotment (0.32 for the smaller Augustin Cota strip), then by a second, more variable deduction of roughly 1.10 to 1.92 acres. That pattern - a near-uniform small loss across parallel strips of similar width, followed by a larger and more variable loss - is consistent with a road crossing the strips at a roughly constant width, followed by a railroad crossing diagonally, so that the acreage taken depends on the local width of the diagonal crossing at each strip. This is direct, map-based confirmation that a specific road and rail corridor physically crossed these allotments after the partition, though it does not by itself identify which railroad; see Section 6 for the open question of which company's right-of-way this represents.

7c. The true tidal fraction was small, and confined to the far west/southwest edge

Of the four classes, only the fourth (tide or overflowed land) corresponds to anything resembling tidal character, and it represents a small minority of the roughly 13,920-acre rancho. Summa Corp. v. California's own footnote 2 provides an independent order-of-magnitude comparison (see Section 5b) - the rancho occupied approximately 14,000 acres and the litigation there quantified an area of about 2,000 acres, roughly 14 percent, as tidelands at California statehood in 1850. This figure comes from a different proceeding addressing a different question (tideland status in 1850, not the 1868 partition's own fourth-class acreage) and is not itself a direct measurement of the 1868 fourth-class acreage; outside review (v1.56) flagged that earlier drafts of this section treated the two figures as equivalent without establishing that equivalence from a primary partition-table summation, and this passage is corrected to state the comparison's actual evidentiary status. On Hancock's own 1858 map and the derivative partition maps, this fourth-class land is confined to the far western and southwestern edge of the surveyed perimeter - the strip nearest the ocean and the mouth of Ballona Creek/Del Rey Lagoon - not any broad interior expanse. The first three classes were not designated as tide/overflowed land in the 1868 classification; outside review (v1.56) flagged the earlier formulation here ("never tidal in any sense the 1868 court would have recognized") as importing an undocumented legal-hydrological standard the 1868 actors' own words do not establish, and the passage is corrected to state only what the classification itself shows.

7d. Even that fourth-class strip was often closed off from the sea

A further and important qualification: the fourth-class tide/overflowed land at the western/southwestern margin was frequently cut off from direct ocean connection rather than persistently open to it, consistent with the natural behavior of Southern California coastal lagoons, which commonly seal shut with a sand berm except during storm surges or unusually high flows. Taken together, the evidence assembled here supports interpreting the 'tidal' character recorded on paper in 1858-1868 as intermittent/episodic - subject to natural opening and closing of the inlet - rather than establishing a continuously tidal system in the way the term is used in modern restoration planning; outside review (v1.61) flagged the earlier "should be read as" phrasing as converting an evidence-supported interpretation into a prescribed historical reading, inconsistent with how the Principal Conclusions state the same point ("supports intermittent rather than continuously open tidal conditions").

- PEER-REVIEW ADDITION (v0.15): a companion Geometric Uncertainty report on U.S. Coast Survey T-Sheet T1432b cites Hancock's own 1858 field notes (Remarks, July 19-23, 1858, recorded under the same sworn surveying commission as his boundary survey) describing the inner bay's connection with the sea as 'often obstructed.' This is Hancock himself, contemporaneously and in his official capacity as Deputy U.S. Surveyor, characterizing the connection as intermittent rather than persistently open - direct primary support for this section's argument, independent of the 1872 Tell and 1886-87 Wicks/rail-company evidence in 7e-7g. This note has not yet independently verified the quote against Hancock's original field notes (cited by the companion report as County Surveyor Volume G5, pages 298-314, certified

by Theo. Wagner, U.S. Surveyor-General, February 17, 1882); pending that direct check, it is logged here as Tier 2 (via a carefully sourced companion report) rather than Tier

7e. Documentary evidence for later engineered tidal connection: Moye Wicks and the dredged ship channel

Per research to date, this assembled record does not document a persistent (i.e., continuously open, engineered) tidal connection to the ocean at this location before deliberate harbor-development dredging in the 1880s-1890s; outside review (v1.56) flagged the earlier “did not exist until” phrasing as overstating absence-from-the-record into a claim of historical nonexistence, which this passage’s own sources do not establish:

- Moye L. Wicks organized the Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company in 1886 to dredge ‘Port Ballona,’ with plans for a 200-foot-wide channel about two miles long (300 to 600 feet wide in the inner harbor) linking the ocean to the inner bay; dredging is reported as already underway/a channel already cut by 1885, ahead of the formal company organization. The first passenger train to the new port arrived August 24, 1887 (per the South Bay Oceanfront account) or August 21, 1887 (per the Cheviot Hills History 1939-calendar reprint), via the California Central Railway/Santa Fe line built to serve it.

- PEER-REVIEW FLAG, now a three-way conflict (updated v0.14): Wikipedia’s ‘Port Ballona, California’ article gives a different sequence - company formation in 1887, not 1886, with Louis Mesmer named as a co-founder alongside Wicks (‘In 1887, Louis Mesmer and Moye Wicks made a small harbor at Port Ballona… Moye Wicks starts the Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company in 1887… On August 21, 1887, the Town of Port Ballona was developed by Louis Mesmer and Moye Wicks’). The Cheviot Hills History reprint of a 1939 calendar instead names the 1886 organizers as ‘M. L. Wicks, H. W. Mills, R. F. Lotspeich, Frank Sabichi and others,’ with no Mesmer and a $300,000 capital stock figure, and separately mentions a right-of-way granted to ‘the California Central Railway Company (Santa Fe)’ - a third corporate name. A third account (Santa Monica Land and Water Company archives) gives yet a fourth version: ‘In 1888 Moses L. Wicks and his partner Louis Mesmer purchased the land from the Machado heirs and formed the Ballona Development Company.’ Separately, Wikipedia’s own ‘Mesmer family of California’ article dates Mesmer’s substantial Rancho La Ballona land interest to February 23, 1890 - inherited from the estate of Andres Bristwalter, a Mesmer business partner - which would post-date the 1886-87 harbor push and cut against a founding role for Mesmer in it. None of these sources is Tier 1 or 2; the founding date, company name, and Mesmer’s role should all be reconciled against a primary corporate record (articles of incorporation, county recorder filings) before further use, and none should be preferred over the others absent such a record.

- The Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company went bankrupt by about 1889-1891, and the harbor project failed; per Section 7f, the September 1887 USC&GS survey shows the dredged channel still failing to self-scour nearly a year after the franchise was granted. The dredged inlet/channel is the mechanism this note’s sources associate with creating, and intending to

create, a persistent engineered opening to the sea, as distinct from the natural, intermittently-closing inlet described in 7d - whether and when that opening actually achieved persistence is not established by the sources assembled here (see 7j).

- RESOLVED - primary source obtained: the ‘SM RR Ship Canal’ is the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company’s Ship Canal, Wharf, and Dock franchise, granted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Thursday, November 11, 1886 (Ord. No. 33, O.S.), per the Board’s minute book (pp. 279-281) and the corresponding petition record. The company had filed its petition with the Board on September 20, 1886; the application was noticed, published, set for hearing November 9, 1886, and continued to November 11, 1886, at which the Board found the public good and convenience would be promoted and granted the franchise unanimously (ayes: Supervisors Macy, Lindley, Foord, Ross, Venable; noes: none).

- Franchise terms, per the primary record: a Ship Canal two hundred feet wide, running north-westerly from a point on the Pacific shore one thousand feet west of the north-west corner of Rancho Sausal Redondo, connecting the Pacific Ocean to ‘Ballona Lake’ (the period name for the inner bay/lagoon at the mouth of Ballona Creek); plus a companion Wharf franchise for one thousand feet of shoreline frontage immediately south-easterly of the canal mouth, running to that same Rancho Sausal Redondo corner, with authority to build docks anywhere along that frontage. All grants carried a twenty-year toll-taking term.

- Corroborating primary source: the underlying published notice has now been located - Los Angeles Herald, ‘Notice of Application for Canal, Wharf and Dock Franchise,’ dated October 7, 1886, announcing the November 9, 1886 hearing (subsequently continued to November 11) and signed ‘LOS ANGELES AND SANTA MONICA RAILROAD COMPANY, By JAMES CAMPBELL, President, S. P. REES, Secretary.’ This is very likely the same ‘notice of publication’ the Board’s minutes describe as having been read and filed on November 11, 1886, and it confirms the company’s officers of record (Campbell, president; Rees, secretary) for future corporate-history tracing.

- Open point, updated but still not resolved (see Section 6): the relationship between the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company (franchise holder of record, officers James Campbell and S. P. Rees) and Moye L. Wicks’s Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company (organized 1886, credited elsewhere with the dredging and the August 1887 first passenger train) has not been established from primary sources yet. v0.14’s search pass adds a third name - the ‘California Central Railway Company (Santa Fe),’ cited by Cheviot Hills History as the right-of-way grantee - without resolving how the three entities relate. Neither Campbell nor Rees has yet been tied to Wicks, Mills, Lotspeich, or Sabichi in the record reviewed so far. They may be the same enterprise under different corporate names, affiliated entities (rail subsidiary, harbor-development parent, right-of-way grantee), or distinct, temporally overlapping efforts at the same site.

- Terminological note: the primary record calls the inner bay ‘Ballona Lake,’ not ‘lagoon’ or ‘inner bay’ - worth carrying forward consistently when quoting this material, since it reflects contemporary (1886) usage rather than later terminology.

- Later hydrological engineering compounds the point: in the 1930s the Army Corps of Engineers channelized and concretized Ballona Creek and installed flap gates specifically to prevent tidal flow into the wetlands while draining runoff - i.e., a subsequent engineering regime that suppressed tidal action even as it fixed the channel geometry, demonstrating repeated human alteration of tidal connectivity from the late nineteenth century onward. Outside review (v1.56) flagged the earlier “continuous human control…since at least the 1880s” phrasing as converting several documented episodes (1872, 1886-87, the 1930s) into an unbroken regime this note’s own sources do not establish for every intervening year; the passage is corrected to describe repeated intervention rather than continuity.

7f. Contemporaneous federal survey evidence: the September 1887 U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey sketch

A primary federal record now corroborates and complicates the engineering timeline: ‘Topographical Sketch of the Proposed Harbor of Port Ballona, Los Angeles Co., Cal.,’ U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Section X, F. M. Thorn, Superintendent, executed under the direction of Asst. George Davidson by Ferdinand Westdahl, Draughtsman U.S.C.&G.S., dated September 1887, scale 1:10,000.

- The sketch’s explanatory note states that the map ‘exhibits the entire tidal area of the lagoon, which the projectors of this new harbor deemed sufficient to maintain a deep water channel between the jetties, with the assistance of dredging to deepen the water in the lagoon’ - i.e., this is a federal surveyor’s own 1887 delineation of what was then considered the lagoon’s tidal extent, and is the single best primary-source candidate yet for corroborating or correcting the Section 7c claim about the small extent of true tidal land. PEER-REVIEW FLAG (second Perplexity pass, v0.11): this passage is transcribed from a user-supplied scan of period handwriting and has not been independently verified against the original by a third party - it should carry the same scan-vs-transcription caution already applied to the ‘Marshy Fields’ clipping (Section 7h), since it is now doing real evidentiary work for Section 7c rather than serving only as background color. Re-check the transcription against the scan (or a second reading of it) before this specific quote is relied on in any corrigenda. PARTIAL CORROBORATION (v0.15): a companion Geometric Uncertainty report on T-Sheet T1432b cites Grossinger et al. (2011), a peer-reviewed regional atlas, independently quoting Westdahl’s account of the same 1887 resurvey - ‘the channel between the jetties, instead of scouring as it was expected to do, filled up so as to leave but a narrow channel at low water’ - in language matching this note’s own user-transcribed passage nearly word for word. This substantially de-risks the transcription (an independent, published secondary source reproduces the same sense and near-identical wording), though it does not replace checking the original USC&GS scan directly, since Grossinger et al. themselves may have drawn on the same or a related transcription rather than re-reading the original manuscript.

- Base topography, apart from the new piers and the harbor entrance, was ‘approximately enlarged from a tracing on a scale of 1:20,000 of Asst. Chase’s work in this locality in 1875’ - meaning an 1875 USC&GS survey by an Assistant Chase pre-dates the harbor works and is a further primary source to pursue for pre-development lagoon conditions, independent of Hancock’s 1858 perimeter and the 1868 partition classes. Not located v0.14; likely a NARA/NOAA-only holding.

- Critically, the dredging effort was struggling, not succeeding, as of the surveyor’s visits: on his first visit (August 29, presumably 1887) the dredger had been at work about two weeks at a point marked ‘A,’ depositing spoil first south of the southern jetty, then in an area marked ‘B,’ and ‘had not yet succeeded in excavating a space sufficiently large to allow it to float and swing at low tide.’ By his last visit, September 19, ‘the dredger was still at work in the same place and had made no apparent progress. The channel between the jetties, instead of scouring as it was expected to do, had filled up so as to leave but a narrow channel at low water.’

- This directly complicates the secondary-source dredging chronology used in earlier drafts of this note (a channel ‘already cut by 1885’ and a first passenger train arriving August 24, 1887, implying a functioning harbor by that date). The federal surveyor’s contemporaneous account instead shows active dredging still failing to establish a stable, self-scouring channel as late as September 19, 1887 - after the reported opening of rail service. FLAG: reconcile whether this reflects (a) a second, later dredging campaign distinct from an earlier 1885-86 effort, (b) a single continuous but persistently unsuccessful project spanning 1885-1887 and beyond, or (c) an error in one or more secondary accounts of the 1887 rail opening date/harbor completion.

- Construction detail: piers were wood, ‘piled like ordinary wharves,’ sheathed on the channel side with square timbers driven into the sand. A test well bored at the inner end of the southern jetty found, from mean high water down: 8 feet coarse sand, 14 feet hard blue clay in thin horizontal layers, 26 feet fine sand, 32 feet gray mud (soft, mixed with sand), 4 feet blue clay, then gravel and fresh water - useful subsurface stratigraphy for the harbor-mouth area, independent of the tidal-extent question but potentially relevant to later hydrological/subsidence work. A second well then being sunk near the southern end of the lagoon showed a markedly different formation, per Westdahl’s note - the two wells were not consistent with each other, which is itself worth flagging for any argument that assumes uniform subsurface conditions across the lagoon.

- Contextual note on Santa Monica: the sketch’s marginal note records that the town of Santa Monica ‘now extends to the low land bordering Ballona Lagoon,’ with the Arcadia Hotel (a four-or-five-story building with a central tower) as the most conspicuous structure on the bay, dated to the same September 1887 visit - useful as an independent dating anchor for the built environment around the lagoon at this moment.

7g. Independent, earlier evidence of a non-tidal connection: the 1872 Tell drainage-ditch episode

A primary source considerably earlier than the 1886 franchise material now bears directly on Section 7's argument: Los Angeles Star, Thursday, February 29, 1872, 'Extraordinary Escape from Drowning, at La Ballona.'

- The account: Ballona Lake had, since the start of that rainy season, risen several feet above its regular level, raising fears it might submerge nearby lowlands. Wm. Tell, proprietor of 'Tell's Retreat' on the lake's western side, decided to drain off a portion of it. Per the article, the lake was 'very near the ocean, and is only separated from it by a strip of sandy land,' and stood 'about ten feet higher than the level of the ocean.' Tell employed a crew to cut a ditch between the lake and the ocean, completed the preceding Sunday; the water 'ran through the aperture and emptied into the ocean very steadily.'

- The cut proved far more powerful than intended: by evening, unknown to Tell, the drainage channel had enlarged fifteen or twenty times beyond what he had left it a few hours earlier. Rowing up that evening with his wife to check on it, he found the cut had broken and enlarged; their boat was drawn into a current 'with the velocity of a mill race' and carried out through the surf onto the open ocean. Tell rowed clear of the worst surf, but the boat capsized; he held his wife with one arm and swam nearly an hour through the breakers before both reached shore alive, exhausted.

- Analytical significance: this is the earliest documented instance located to date - fourteen years before the September 20, 1886 petition - of a deliberate human cut connecting Ballona Lake to the ocean, and it was explicitly a one-directional gravity drain relieving elevated lake level, not a tidal exchange channel. The lake is described as standing above ocean level and separated by a barrier beach, and the water is described as flowing one way (lake to ocean, 'emptied into the ocean'), not as tidal water moving in both directions with the ocean's rhythm. That is independent corroboration, from a source fourteen years earlier and unconnected to the 1886-87 harbor-development record, that at this specific February 1872 moment the lake was not persistently tidally connected to the ocean - outside review (v1.56) flagged the earlier "under ordinary conditions" phrasing as overextending a single documented episode into a year-round claim, contradicted by this same passage's own caveat two bullets below, and the phrase is removed accordingly - the connection had to be cut, and behaved as a drain, not a tide, at that moment.

- Important caveats, preserved as given: the tide state in Santa Monica Bay at the specific hour described is not known from this account and could have been an unusually low tide, which would exaggerate the apparent ten-foot height differential; and the lake's level itself may have been anomalously elevated by heavy antecedent rainfall that particular rainy season, rather than representative of a typical or average condition. The one-directional, drain-like behavior and the rapid, uncontrolled enlargement of the cut are nonetheless difficult to reconcile with an

already-tidal water body, whatever the precise numbers - a genuinely tidal inlet does not require cutting, and does not drain in one direction only under its own head until the cutter loses control of it, as happened here. This should be treated as strong evidence for the specific February 1872 flood-season moment, not overextended into a claim about year-round or long-term conditions without further corroboration.

- Open point: whether this 1872 cut, made at the lake's 'western side' near Tell's Retreat (later the Del Rey Hotel site), is at or near the same location later franchised to the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company in 1886, or a separate point along the barrier beach, has not been established and would need comparison against the 1886 franchise's stated location (one thousand feet west of the north-west corner of Rancho Sausal Redondo) and the 1887 USC&GS sketch's 'New Piers' location.

7h. Contextual retrospective: the 'Marshy Fields' account of Ballona Slough, 1870-1885

A second clipping, headed 'Marshy Fields,' gives a retrospective (not contemporary - see flag below) account of the same period and location:

- Before 1870, the ocean frontage of Rancho La Ballona was known as 'Ballona Slough' - a distinct period place-name from 'Ballona Lake' (used in the 1872 and 1886 records) worth tracking alongside the terminological note already in Section 7e. It is described as 'marshy fields, broken by sand dunes, ponds and lagoons of salt water, considered worthless save as a lure to ducks and game birds' - independent corroboration of the 'worthless' fourth-class characterization already noted from the 1868 partition context (Section 4/Mark Crawford quote).

- About 1870, Will Tell - a German described as 'of convivial propensities' - erected a shack at the spot later occupied by the Del Rey Hotel, called it 'Tell's Lookout,' advertised himself as agent for 'Don Keller's brandies,' and offered boats, guns, and fishing tackle. This corroborates and dates the same Wm. Tell/Tell's Retreat of the 1872 Star article and fixes the site's later identity as the Del Rey Hotel location.

- In 1877, after Tell's death, Michael Duffy (an Irishman) opened 'Hunter's Cottage' on the same site, advertising board, lodging, guns, ammunition, and boats for sportsmen. NEW, Tier 3-4 (v0.14): a separate real-estate-history account gives a specific mechanism and date for the handoff - 'in 1874, when the widow of Augustin Machado brought suit to evict Tell, he packed up and moved to Santa Monica' (southbayoceanfront.com/explore-playa-del-rey-california/) - which should be checked against the 'Marshy Fields' clipping's own text once its masthead/date is confirmed, since '1877, after Tell's death' and '1874, evicted by suit' describe two different reasons for Tell's departure and are not yet reconciled.

- The piece characterizes 1870-1885 as the full extent of activity at Ballona Slough - 'a paradise for duck hunters,' with development only beginning in 1885, consistent with the Wicks/Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company and Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company activity documented above.

- FLAG: this clipping reads as a later historical retrospective (the phrase ‘to quote an old reference’ signals the piece is itself quoting a still-earlier source), not a contemporary 1870s-1880s report. Its publication date and masthead should be confirmed before it is relied on with the same evidentiary weight as the 1872 Star article or the 1886-87 primary records; for now it is best used as corroborating context and a source of period place-names and dates, not as a standalone primary source in its own right.

7i. Pending review: “Ghosts of Old Ballona: Moye Wicks’ Dream, Will Tell”

A third file of the same name has been received but had not yet been transcribed or analyzed as of v0.7, when this section was first written. Its title indicates it treats both Moye Wicks’s harbor scheme and Will Tell in a single retrospective piece, which makes it a promising candidate for finally resolving the open question (Section 7e/7f open items) of how Wicks’s Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company relates to the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company franchise, and possibly for dating or relocating the Tell drainage cut relative to the 1886-87 harbor works. This item remains open as of v1.55 (see Reference 27); FLAG: transcribe and incorporate in a future revision.

7j. Evidentiary implication

Read together, 7a-7i support a carefully bounded version of the position already established elsewhere in this note’s argument: the documentary record assembled to date provides substantial evidence that persistent, engineered tidal connection at this location post-dated the rancho period, while evidence for a continuously open natural inlet during the relevant historical period remains limited. Hancock’s 1858 perimeter survey shows no internal tidal differentiation at all; the 1868 partition’s own four-class system confines any tidal designation to a small fraction of the rancho at its far western/southwestern edge (a different proceeding’s independent order-of-magnitude comparison suggests approximately 14 percent - see Section 5b/7c; not a direct measurement of the 1868 fourth-class acreage itself); and that fraction behaved, in the sources reviewed, as naturally intermittent rather than persistently tidal, ahead of two documented engineering interventions fourteen years apart. In February 1872, a private operator cut through the barrier beach to relieve a flooded lake, and the water ran one way, out to the ocean, until the cut outran his control (7g). In 1886, the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company petitioned for and received a franchise whose stated purpose was to connect an ocean and a lake not otherwise connected. The September 1887 USC&GS survey then shows that, nearly a year after that franchise, the dredged channel was still failing to self-scour and had narrowed rather than opened up. These two documented interventions, both undertaken specifically to create a connection across the barrier beach, are difficult to reconcile with a background assumption that the lake was persistently, tidally connected to the ocean throughout the period these records cover - though they do not, on their own, rule out the possibility of a naturally tidal inlet at some other point in the rancho’s history that these particular sources simply do not capture. Establishing whether such a natural inlet ever existed, whether and when persistent tidal action was eventually achieved, and whether the 1872 and 1886 cuts were at the same location, remain the key open questions for completing this argument.

7k. Implication for the CDFW/Friends of Ballona Wetlands full-tidal-restoration premise

The primary sources assembled in 7e-7g expose a direct tension in any argument that the pre-development Ballona wetlands were a continuously, persistently tidal system to which a 'full tidal restoration' would simply be returning. Twice - in 1872 privately, and in 1886 as a chartered franchise - contemporary parties cut through the barrier beach to connect Ballona Lake to the ocean, and both times the language and behavior described is that of creating a connection, not maintaining or improving one already there. The 1886 petition and the Board's franchise resolution do not describe deepening, maintaining, or improving an existing tidal connection - their own stated purpose, in their own words, was to construct a Ship Canal 'so as to connect said Ballona Lake with the Pacific Ocean.' A water body that already had a persistent, ongoing tidal connection to the ocean would not typically require a purpose-built canal, a twenty-year toll franchise, and a dredging campaign to 'connect' it to that ocean in the first place - nor would a private operator fourteen years earlier have needed to cut a ditch to drain it, only to watch the water run one way, out to sea, until the cut outran his control. The contemporaneous documents describe the objective, at both dates, as creating a connection across the barrier beach - language consistent with the absence of an existing persistent connection at either date, though it does not itself amount to a formal admission that none ever existed at any point in the rancho's history. Per the September 1887 USC&GS survey (7f), the 1886 attempt to manufacture that connection was not even succeeding a year later.

Editorial note on sourcing: this specific point - that digging a canal to connect a water body to the ocean is difficult to square with a claim that the water body was already fully tidal - was raised in a private email conversation. Per instruction, that correspondence is not to be quoted or attributed to any individual in this note or in any document derived from it. The point stands independently on the primary sources cited in 7e-7g (the 1872 Star account, the petition's and franchise's own 'so as to connect' language, and the USC&GS survey's account of the failing dredging effort) and should be sourced only to those primary records if used going forward, not to private correspondence or any individual's commentary.

9. External review and search passes

Numbering note: this section is numbered 9, not 8. An earlier working draft's Section 8 was consolidated into other sections during a prior editorial pass (in the same manner Section 10 was later merged into this Section 9, per the v0.11 entry in the Version block); rather than renumber every existing cross-reference to 'Section 9' throughout this document at the point of publication - a mechanical change carrying its own risk of introducing new errors - the numbering gap is preserved and noted here explicitly.

Independent factual and editorial review passes were conducted against this note and incorporated. Individual findings appear inline throughout Sections 1-7, tagged by evidentiary status per the legend under 'Purpose and status' (CORROBORATED, PEER-REVIEW CORRECTION/FLAG/ADDITION, DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE, RESOLVED), rather than restated here.

- Headline finding: this note's central interpretive claim - that the Summa Corp. administrative-protest narrative (Section 2) is properly distinguished from the Young v. Machado partition suit (Section 3) and from any undiscovered discrete survey-contest filing - was found fully supported by the primary Supreme Court text.
- This note's self-flagged discrepancies (1863/1865 petition date; 23-section/64-parcel split; three-class/four-class compression) were independently confirmed as genuine, unresolved conflicts in the public secondary literature, not errors introduced by this note.
- New open items surfaced by these passes are carried in Section 6, including: the Wicks/Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company founding-date conflict; the 'law of 1859' vs. Act of July 1, 1864 statutory discrepancy; the unattributed 'Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica' inference; the Berkeley digicoll docket numbers (SUBSEQUENTLY RESOLVED, v0.14 - see the entry two bullets below and Section 1); and additional archival avenues (General Land Office records, the federal land patent database, California State Lands Commission historical materials, and further 1868-era newspapers).
- This note's own sourcing discipline (the Section 4a verbatim-fragment labeling, the exclusion of Friends of Ballona Wetlands and Grokipedia as supporting sources, and the refusal to attribute the Section 7k canal argument to private correspondence or any individual) was reviewed and found sound.
- v0.14 broad open-item search pass (Claude, v0.14): at the requester's instruction, a systematic web-search pass was run against every item on the v0.13 Section 6 open-items list, ahead of a further Perplexity review pass. Unlike the Perplexity/ChatGPT passes above, which reviewed this note's own drafts for internal soundness, this was a primary-source-hunting pass against the open questions themselves. It fully resolved one item (the Berkeley Bancroft docket identifiers), added one previously-unidentified detail resolving part of another (the Warner/Thomas/Boyd referee names), surfaced two new archival collections not previously in this note (LMU Hannon Library's MS123 and CSLA-32 finding aids), and added further secondary-source detail - without resolution - to the Wicks/Mesmer/rail-company question and the Tell/Duffy handoff date. It did not locate primary material for: the Rolle 1859-statute question, the 1875 Asst. Chase survey, GLO/BLM patent records, CSLC materials, or additional 1868-era newspapers. Search-derived findings inherit the same limitation noted below - they are not a substitute for pulling the underlying primary or archival documents directly, several of which (MS123, CSLA-32, the Solano-Reeve Report of the Survey of Partition) now have concrete retrieval pointers in Section 6.
- v0.15 cross-reference pass (Claude, then Perplexity, v0.15): two companion documents - a Background Memorandum on the U.S. Surveyor-General's rancho-survey program (DIST-v1.1) and a Geometric Uncertainty report on U.S. Coast Survey T-Sheet T1432b (Draft v3.25) - were reviewed for connections to this note's Section 6 open items. Claude's initial read flagged three candidate connections (the Chase/T1432b identification, the Grossinger corroboration of the

Westdahl quote, and Hancock's 'often obstructed' field-note quote) and one disambiguation risk (three distinct 1868-1876 Hansen/Ballona-area surveys not to be conflated). A subsequent, independent Perplexity pass against the same two documents was run before either set of findings was written into this note, and reached the same three substantive identifications independently, proposing near-identical draft language and evidentiary tiering (Tier 6/provisional for the Chase identification; partial corroboration, not full resolution, for the Westdahl quote). This convergence across two independently-run passes is noted as such rather than presented as a single finding. Perplexity's own proposed language is used substantially as drafted for the Section 6 Chase item; Claude's disambiguation note on the three Hansen/Ballona-area surveys was not separately checked by Perplexity and remains a Claude-only flag.

- Image-review pass (v0.17): five user-supplied photographs (a Los Angeles County Assessor partition-allotment table; a georeferenced overlay of the same on a modern aerial base; and three Assessor map-book pages showing later re-platting, railroad/road right-of-way deductions, and Port Ballona lot/block references) were reviewed independently for connections to this note's open items. Two distinct hypotheses emerged for annotations reading 'Case 2722' and 'Case 5630': one reviewer's working hypothesis favored later District Court litigation; another favored Los Angeles County Assessor-internal map-book series numbers unrelated to any lawsuit. A subsequent research pass investigated both explicitly, proposing an identification of Case 2722 with a specific citation. That citation was independently checked directly against the underlying source rather than accepted as given, and confirmed: Case 2722 is District Court Case No. 2722, Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al. (see Section 3). A separate claim from that same pass - a December 20, 1894 recording date for the associated Map Records citation - was not independently corroborated and is carried in this note, where used, as attributed to that pass alone rather than independently confirmed. Case 5630 was investigated by two independent passes and remains unresolved by both; this convergence on 'unresolved' is itself informative and is reported as such rather than treated as a gap in effort.

- Living-instrument reframe (v0.18): two independent review passes against the growing set of partition-table images and open items converged, without prompting from each other, on the same structural insight: the various tables of partition (Case No. 965, Case No. 2722, the still-open Case No. 5630, and the Assessor/Recorder re-plats) should not be treated as competing or corrective versions of a single document, but as a documentary lineage of successive, legitimate legal states of the same underlying allotments, each produced by a specific later event (probate, right-of-way taking, subdivision, routine re-platting). LATER REFINED (v1.59): once Case No. 5630 was resolved (v0.19) and its own map fully examined, this note distinguished legal succession (Case No. 2722, the Assessor/Recorder re-plats) from cadastral connection alone (Case No. 5630, which is legally separate property tied to the earlier framework only through shared boundary monuments, not a further legal state of the same allotments) - see Section 3a and the Closing Reflection. This entry is left as the historical record of the reframe's original, less differentiated form at v0.18, when Case No. 5630's own nature was still unresolved. One pass

additionally proposed a standing cataloging schema for tracking future table-versions (repository, date, case numbers, recorder references, triggering event, acreage/right-of-way changes); the other proposed the specific citation convention now adopted in Section 3a (always specify which generation of a table an acreage figure comes from). Both are folded into new Section 3a. This convergence - two passes independently reaching the same reframe from the same underlying images - is exactly the kind of result this note's review methodology is meant to surface, and is reported as such.

- Case 5630 resolution history (v0.19): a fourth AI system (GeminiAI) was asked about Case 5630 and returned a specific, fluent account - a named plaintiff and defendant, a court-appointed referee, a named surveyor, and a March 1887 decree date, together with a real, working URL to a Los Angeles County Public Works land-records scan (MR017-077.pdf). Independent web search could corroborate the URL as real but not the specific transcribed details, and the claim's stated acreage for Agustin Cota (1.50205 acres) directly conflicted with this note's already-verified 23.28-acre Tier 1 figure for Cota's rural allotment (Section 4) - the claim was provisionally rejected pending direct verification. The requester then opened the actual primary document and reported its contents directly. That direct inspection confirmed the case, both parties, the referee, the surveyor, and the date are real, and narrowed the disagreement to two specific Gemini errors: a misplaced decimal (the correct figure is 15.0205 acres, not 1.50205 - a plausible separate in-town parcel, not a conflict with the 23.28-acre rural allotment after all) and an apparently confabulated second surveyor, 'C.E. Lot,' which does not appear on the actual map (the title block instead credits a single surveyor, J. A. Bernol, holding both the Surveyor and Civil Engineer designations). Net effect: this episode is a documented example of the cross-verification process working as intended in both directions - correctly withholding a specific AI-sourced claim pending verification, and then correctly updating the assessment once a human directly checked the primary source, rather than either accepting the claim on confidence or continuing to reject it after the substance was confirmed. See the Source Hierarchy's Tier 5 entry and References 51 and 53 for how this is carried forward.

- Ramona S. de Machado relationship correction (v1.7): a contrasting data point to the Case 5630 episode above, worth recording for the same reason. GeminiAI flagged that a claim in this note (v1.6, that Ramona S. de Machado was Agustin Machado's daughter) was wrong and that she was in fact his wife. Per standing practice, this was not taken on Gemini's word - it was independently checked against several sources (References 65-67: Find a Grave's reproduction of her 1891 death notices, a Huntington Library catalog entry, and a Calisphere/USC photo caption), all of which corroborated the correction. Net effect, alongside the Case 5630 episode: this note's standing rule is not "Gemini is always wrong" but "Gemini is never cited without independent verification" - the same rule correctly withheld a fabricated detail in one case and correctly flagged a real error in this one. Both outcomes depended on the verification step, not on any assumption about Gemini's reliability either way.

- Photograph verification round (v0.20): a direct photograph of the MR017-077.pdf title block was supplied and independently read by two reviewers rather than relayed as a single transcription.

Both readings agreed on the full text, including the drafter's own doubled-f period spelling 'Refferee.' One reviewer's read raised the possibility that a second surveyor's name might be cut off after 'C.E.,' deferring to Gemini's earlier (separately discredited) claim of a name there; on direct examination of the image, no such cut-off is visible, and the more natural reading of 'Sur. and C.E.' is two professional-title abbreviations (Surveyor and Civil Engineer) for the single named surveyor - this note adopts that reading and treats the second-surveyor question as resolved. The two reviewers' transcriptions differ on one point that is a genuine source ambiguity rather than a reading error: the surveyor's surname could be 'Bernal' (the far more common California surname) or 'Bernol' as directly read; this note carries both rather than resolving the ambiguity by choosing the statistically likelier name, since the period cursive genuinely supports either.

- Full-resolution map review (v0.21): full-resolution photographs of the 1868 partition map ('Courtney Map') and the 1876 Hansen/Solano map were reviewed independently, alongside a synthesis proposing a chronology from the 1839 grant through later Assessor revisions and a suggested short roadmap section for readers unfamiliar with this history. That chronology and the roadmap suggestion are adopted (see the new front-matter Roadmap section). One specific factual claim in that synthesis - that Ramona S. de Machado's allotment was already 'intact' on the 1868 map - was checked directly against the 1868 map's own List of Partition table and found incorrect: the 1868 table has no Ramona S. de Machado line item at all, only a single 'Estate of Aug. Machado' block later subdivided among named heirs including Ramona in 1876 (Case No. 2722). This note's own direct examination of the same two map photographs independently surfaced three findings the synthesis did not mention: the 1876 map's on-sheet self-citation of 'No. 2722,' a precise April 12, 1876 certification date, and a previously uncatalogued discrepancy between a December 14, 1867 referee-appointment date and the December 14, 1868 decree date this note has cited throughout (Section 3, Section 6). The uploaded 1868 map's filename also identifies it as the 'Courtney Map,' a name that may connect this memo to a source already cited under that name in this office's separate Ballona Creek Terminus Report - flagged as an open item (Section 6) rather than assumed.

- Index-error correction round (v0.22): a research pass supplied a summary of court-index entries for Cases No. 965, 2722, and 5630, plus a new lead (Case No. 20244), sourced to a court-case cross-reference index rather than to primary documents. Checked against this note's own photographed primary source for Case No. 5630 (Section 6, v0.20-v0.21), four specific details in that summary did not hold up: a fabricated second defendant, a misread referee surname, a fabricated survey day, and a slightly altered acreage figure. This was reported back to the same pass, which reviewed the primary-source photograph directly, correctly retracted all four errors without defending or minimizing them, correctly identified which of its own claims remained safely usable (existence and rough filing context only) versus which needed to be discarded, and proposed the index-handling rule this note now adopts (Section 6). This is recorded as a positive example of the review process working as intended in a different way than the earlier Gemini episode (Section 6, v0.18-v0.19): there, resolution required a human directly inspecting the

primary source; here, the AI system that produced the error correctly re-reasoned from evidence already in the conversation once the conflict was pointed out, without needing a human to re-derive the correction independently. Separately, this note's own follow-up search independently confirmed and refined the structural claim about District Court to Superior Court case-number continuity, finding the two courts used separate numbering series rather than a single continuous one (Section 6; new Reference 58).

- Convergent misreading, Estate of Aug. Machado share (v1.9-v1.10): a concrete case study in why this note treats digit-level primary- source readings as needing arithmetic or independent-source verification, not just a second look. The Courtney Map's "Estate of Aug. Machado" interest share was transcribed as "304/672" at v0.21 and stood uncorrected through v1.8. At v1.9, a higher-resolution crop and a column-sum arithmetic check (every other legible share in the column totals 473; a 672-share whole leaves no room for an additional 304, but fits a 204) corrected this to "204/672." The same crop was then independently read by two AI systems: one (ChatGPT) transcribed "304" - reproducing the original, now-known- incorrect reading, independently of having seen the v0.21 text - while the other (Perplexity) transcribed "204," matching the correction. Two independent readers looking at the same cursive digit produced the same wrong answer at two different points four versions apart; only the arithmetic check, not a third look, settled it. The corrected figure is retained on that basis, not on a 2-to-1 reading count. Separately, and not adopted: the same review pass also transcribed Geo. Ad. Sanford's four class-column figures as 446.70/479.80/2654.04/643.62 for the Estate of Aug. Machado row (correct, matching this note's existing figures) but offered a Sanford-row breakdown that does not sum to Sanford's own already-established 912.13-acre total; not used, for the same reason the 304 reading was not used - it fails its own arithmetic check.

- Two-reviewer TARC pass on References 65-67, marriage date, and G. Hansen identity, with independent third-party verification (v1.11): per the TARC handoff protocol, ChatGPT and Perplexity Computer were each given scoped, independent verification assignments, and their reports were then checked against fresh web retrieval rather than accepted at face value from either. Results: (1) References 65-67 were re-confirmed independently - ChatGPT could not retrieve the underlying Find a Grave and Calisphere pages, but both this note's own follow-up search and Perplexity's pass retrieved and quoted them directly, converging on the same text already cited in this document. (2) The marriage date proved to be a genuine conflict between two source clusters, not a single uncorroborated claim: ChatGPT surfaced secondary genealogies giving "29 January 1827," while independent search found two Find a Grave memorials (Ramona's and Agustin's, compiled separately) both giving "27 February 1827" with underlying sacramental-record citations in the Early California Population Project's own numbering style (e.g., "BP Baptism 00331," "SG Marriage 01684") - stronger secondary sourcing than either reviewer's citation alone, but still short of the actual mission register page. Retained as-is (27 February 1827) with the competing date now logged rather than treated as simply unverified. (3) The "fourteen children" figure remains uncorroborated; the only source located (Grokipedia) is excluded per this note's own Source Hierarchy and does not count as corroboration despite

matching. (4) The G. Hansen identity question - whether the 1868 partition map's "G. Hansen, County Surveyor" is the same person as the 1876 Hansen/Solano map's Hansen - moved from ChatGPT's "plausible but not conclusively established" to a materially stronger finding on independent check: an LMU biographical record states Hansen was Los Angeles County Surveyor from 1864 to 1869, a sole tenure that squarely covers the December 1868 partition date, and the Huntington Library's Hansen/Solano/Reeve collection finding aid (already Reference 39) shows Hansen's own papers descending through Solano specifically, consistent with a direct working succession rather than two contemporaries sharing a surname.

- CSLA-11 misattribution, Reference 60 (v1.11): Perplexity Computer's assigned task of locating LMU's finding aid for the Fritz Burns Papers/CSLA collection returned a specific, checkable claim - that CSLA-11 is a single-item collection containing only the 1876 Hansen/Solano map, and that the Fritz Burns Papers are a separate collection (CSLA-4) unconnected to the Machado partition maps. This was not accepted on Perplexity's authority alone - consistent with this note's standing practice of independently re-verifying any AI-sourced claim regardless of source - and was independently re-retrieved directly from LMU's own finding aid before acting on it. CORRECTED (v1.20): this entry previously cited "Perplexity's documented fabrication history on this project (Section 6, Case No. 5630 index episode)" as the reason for that verification. This was a misattribution error on this note's own part: the Case No. 5630 index episode (a fabricated second defendant, a misread referee name, a fabricated survey day, and an altered acreage figure) was GeminiAI's error, not Perplexity's - documented consistently elsewhere in this note (Section 9, References 51-53, and the Source Hierarchy's Tier 5 exclusion, all of which name GeminiAI). Nothing in this note's own record shows Perplexity Computer fabricating a claim on this project; the verification here reflects this note's general practice of checking any AI-sourced claim independently, not a Perplexity-specific concern. It held up exactly as reported: CSLA-11 is confirmed as the 1876 map alone (consistent with this note's own Reference 56), and the Fritz Burns Papers resolve to CSLA-4 (with a related CSLA-2), with no connection to the 1868 partition map. Reference 60's prior "LMU Fritz Burns Papers, CSLA collection, 'CSLA-11'" attribution for the 1868 map photograph is therefore withdrawn as incorrect (corrected at Reference 60 and the corresponding Section 3 open item, v1.20). This is logged alongside the v1.7 Ramona-daughter/wife episode as a case where an AI-sourced claim, checked independently rather than trusted or dismissed by source alone, turned out to be correct and prompted a correction rather than the reverse - the same "always verify, never assume by source reputation" rule producing the right outcome again.

- Title-block re-examination, three-way AI split resolved by direct human inspection (v1.12): a fresh, independently-purchased high-resolution Huntington crop of the Courtney Map's full title block was independently reviewed by this note, ChatGPT, and Perplexity Computer in parallel, per the TARC methodology. Two items converged cleanly across all three (and a targeted follow-up crop): magnetic variation "Var. 14°15'E" (after ChatGPT briefly misread it as "14°55'E" from an earlier, lower-resolution crop before self-correcting) and the certification's "of this ___" phrase, which all three eventually agreed is not a missing or obscured word but a certification

dated to month and year only, no day given. One item did not converge on the first pass: the second certification signature (alongside E.H. Boyd, already confidently read by all three). This note and Perplexity both read “J.J. Warner”; ChatGPT explicitly retracted an earlier “Warner” read and proposed the initial could be H, J, or G, declining to force a reading. Process- of-elimination narrowed the field before resolution: the certification’s own text limits signers to the three named referees (Warner, Thomas, Boyd), Boyd is confirmed, so the second signature could only be Warner or Thomas - ruling out ChatGPT’s “G” candidate on textual grounds alone, independent of the handwriting. The requester then independently inspected a second, separately-sourced high-resolution copy of the same map by eye and confirmed “J.J. Warner.” This is recorded as the clearest example in this note’s history of the standing rule that a reviewer count does not settle a letter- or digit-level primary-source reading - two AI systems agreeing on “Warner” did not settle it (both risked anchoring on the title block’s already-known referee list rather than reading the signature strokes independently), and it was resolved only when a human returned to the primary source itself, exactly as the Case 5630 and Estate of Aug. Machado episodes above were. Separately, the v1.12 pass also produced a substantive reframing (not a signature dispute): the title block’s “13919.90 acres” figure was read consistently by this note and ChatGPT as explicitly attributed, in the document’s own sentence structure, to the 1858 Hancock survey rather than to the 1868 partition itself - see the corresponding Section 3 entry for the resulting downgrade of the 13919.90/13919.46 item from DISCREPANCY TO RESOLVE to a probably-benign distinction between two different surveys’ figures.

- Station 83 “terminus” question, scope discipline as the actual finding (v1.13): this note, ChatGPT, and Perplexity Computer were independently asked whether a specific survey point (station 83, on the Talamantes/Sanford Assessor sheet, Reference 68) represented “the terminus of Ballona Creek.” All three readings differed. This note read station 83 as likely an inland survey vertex, not a coastal feature. Perplexity Computer agreed the channel continues past station 83 rather than ending there, but placed the actual bay terminus in a cardinal direction inconsistent with the rancho’s real geography (Santa Monica Bay lies southwest of these inland allotments, not east/southeast) - a claim not adopted. ChatGPT offered the most specific textual observation (the stationed channel geometry visibly ends at 83, replaced by a fan of allotment boundaries) but then used that observation to support the broader claim “the terminus of Ballona Creek,” despite its own stated caveat that the map alone could not establish any hydrological conclusion beyond the end of the surveyed channel - an internal inconsistency this note flagged rather than adopting the broader claim. The requester’s own standing knowledge - that Ballona Creek, per the already-published Terminus Report (v5.72), historically debouched into Hancock’s interior bay rather than reaching the open ocean - reframed the question productively but could not be tested against these two crops alone, since neither shows the interior bay itself. The resolution adopted is deliberately narrower than any single AI’s initial claim: station 83 is confirmed as the end of the surveyed, stationed watercourse on this sheet; whether it is also the hydrological terminus, debouchment point, or connects to the Terminus Report’s documented inner-bay inlet remains open, pending the requester’s promised additional maps (see the new Section 3

open item). Logged as an example of the reverse of this note's usual failure mode: not an AI fabricating a fact, but an AI's own valid observation being stretched past what it actually supports - equally worth catching under this note's standing verification discipline.

- Richard Courtney Collection provenance, and Order 338388 resolution (v1.14): the "Richard Courtney Collection" attribution appearing in several user-supplied image filenames this session was independently checked against the Huntington Library's own published research guide rather than accepted from the filenames alone. It holds up: a former LA Superior Court archives employee, Richard Courtney, donated court-history material to the Huntington in 1983, cataloged as the Richard Courtney papers, recognized by the library as supplementing the Los Angeles Area Court Records (LAACR) collection. This resolves, with high confidence, a standing open item from the original TARC handoff record as to whether "Courtney Map" (this note's working name for Reference 55, the primary 1868 partition map throughout) and "Courtney 1867-68" (cited in this office's Ballona Creek Terminus Report) trace to the same source - they very plausibly do. Separately, a Huntington Aeon reading-room request and subsequent Imaging Services order (Transaction 338388) were verified as genuine against the Huntington's own Aeon system documentation (status language, URL structure, and delivery mechanism all match published library procedure). The order's own delivery description ("O/S Folder 1, Map 3") did not match an earlier working description of the same transaction as a "Courtney Partition Map, Case No. 2722, Shelf I-4, fldr. 3"; the requester confirmed on receipt that the delivered item matches material already in this note (the station 83 crops, Reference 68), not separate Case 2722 content. The Case 2722 description is not adopted, and whether a distinct map exists under that shelf/folder locator is left unresolved and not currently pursued, per the requester.

- Station 83 reconciliation, closing the loop (v1.15): References 69-70 (the 1876 Hansen/Solano map, both a working copy and the Recorder's own filed copy) arrived and settled the question this note's three-way AI disagreement (Section 9, v1.13) had deliberately left open. The watercourse is labeled "Ballona Creek" by name, in the surveyor's own hand [ATTRIBUTION CORRECTED v1.33: the on-sheet label is confirmed, but whose hand produced it is not established; see the v1.33 entry below], at two independent points on two independently-sourced copies of the same map - the first time this note has an on-sheet primary-source label for the watercourse, rather than an inference from filenames or known subject matter. The creek's drawn course continues well past station 83, southwest along the Ramona S. de Machado allotment to the coast. Measured against the original three readings: Perplexity Computer's instinct that "the channel continues past station 83" is now confirmed, though its proposed direction (east/southeast) was wrong - the actual direction is southwest, as this note's own contemporaneous geographic objection anticipated. This note's own reading (station 83 as likely an inland vertex, not a coastal feature) is also confirmed. ChatGPT's specific claim - that station 83 represents "the terminus of the surveyed Ballona Creek channel" - does not hold for Ballona Creek itself, though its underlying observation remains accurate on its own narrow terms: the stationed numbering and channel-following linework on that particular Assessor sheet (Reference 68) does end at 83, giving way to a fan of unrelated strip-allotment

boundaries. The lesson already logged at v1.13 - that ChatGPT's valid cartographic observation was stretched past what it supported - is now confirmed by direct primary-source evidence rather than resting on inference alone. Separately, the v1.15 pass surfaced and corrected a standing error in this note's own record: Reference 56's description of the 1876 map's certification as signed by E.H. Boyd was wrong: Case No. 2722 used a single referee, Geo. Hansen, whose sole signature appears on the certification; E.H. Boyd's involvement was specific to the earlier three-referee Case No. 965 panel and had been carried over in error. Caught only because fresh primary-source crops were examined directly against the existing entry, not because anyone flagged the discrepancy first - consistent with this note's standing practice of re-verifying old entries against new material rather than assuming settled text is correct by default.

- Second E.H. Boyd/1876-map error found during docx production (v1.16): while proofing a rendered page of the docx export of this note, a Section 3 paragraph dating to v0.21 was found still stating the 1876 map's certification was signed by E.H. Boyd rather than Geo. Hansen
  - the same error already corrected at Reference 56 (v1.15), left standing in a second location within Section 3's own narrative text. This is recorded plainly as a process lesson: v1.15's own closing note claimed "No sentence in Sections 1-2, 4-9… was altered by this pass beyond the specific Section 3… text corrected," but the correction that revision actually made to Section 3 addressed only the station 83 discussion, not this separate, earlier paragraph making the same underlying claim in different words. A single factual correction had been applied to one restatement of a claim (Reference 56) without checking whether the same claim appeared elsewhere in the note's own body text. Corrected at v1.16. The catch itself came from an unrelated activity - rendering pages to proof a docx export - not from a dedicated re-read of Section 3, which is itself worth noting: formatting a document for distribution surfaced a substantive error that a text-only review pass had missed twice (v1.15's own correction pass, and whatever review preceded it back to v0.21).
- TARC Sanity Check pass, v1.17 (v1.18): the requester asked all three reviewers to perform a full sanity check on the then-current v1.17 file, aimed at reaching a stable point in the document's evolution rather than adding new primary-source content. This note's own pass was systematic rather than a read-through: reference numbering (1-70, checked programmatically for gaps and duplicates - clean), Table of Contents against actual section headings (31 entries, matched 1:1 - clean), and every prior AI-review dispute logged in this note cross-checked at every place it's mentioned for internal contradiction (magnetic variation, the Boyd/Hansen certification question, the Warner signature, the Sanford name, Bernal/Bernol, C.S. 8194 - all consistent). Two real findings resulted, both self- inconsistencies rather than new primary-source errors: (1) the Ygnacio/Ignacio case-caption letterform, reopened during the v1.12 title-block pass but never written back into the v1.9 entry that still stated it with unwarranted confidence - corrected in Section 3 and Reference 55, v1.18; (2) the Purpose and status paragraph's reference to a specific distribution copy (DIST-v1.10) had gone stale as newer distribution copies

were produced - corrected to a version-agnostic pointer to the Version block, v1.18. Neither finding was caught by the correction that produced it (the v1.12 pass itself, or the DIST-v1.16/v1.17 production work) - both surfaced only when the document was later re-read end-to-end for self-consistency specifically, which is itself the operative lesson: a correction made in one place is not verified simply by having been made, until the rest of the document is checked for other statements of the same underlying claim. Consistent with the E.H. Boyd/Hansen catch at v1.16, this is the second time in close succession that a dedicated re-read - not a fresh source, not another AI's flagging - is what found the problem.

- Perplexity Computer TARC pass on v1.18, arithmetic catch verified (v1.19): asked to sanity-check v1.18 independently after this note's own pass and ChatGPT's endorsement, Perplexity Computer flagged that the v1.9 arithmetic passage's "corrected throughout" framing understated a residual 5-share gap (473 + 204 = 677, not 672) - a specific numeric claim, independently recomputed by this note before crediting it, consistent with this note's practice of verifying any AI-sourced claim regardless of source, and found correct. CORRECTED (v1.20): this entry originally cited "Perplexity's documented fabrication history on this project" as the reason for that verification - a misattribution error on this note's own part; see the corresponding correction at the CSLA-11 entry above. Nothing in this note's own record shows Perplexity Computer fabricating a claim on this project. Distinguished on reflection from the underlying digit-correction claim (204 vs. 304), which remains well-supported by the same arithmetic via elimination and was not put in doubt - only the "corrected throughout" framing's implication of full closure was overstated. Tightened accordingly in Section 3. Perplexity's other items either matched this note's own findings (Station 83/References 69-70 chain, C.S. 8194 as the top research priority) or were process suggestions rather than factual claims (timestamping letterform-ambiguity flags at first discovery). Its reference-numbering spot check (partial, items 29-45 and 70) is superseded by this note's own full programmatic check of 1-70 at the v1.18 TARC pass - no gap remains to spot-check.

- C.S. 8194 located (v1.19): the requester independently retrieved the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's "Right of Way Map of Ballona Creek," identified as this note's long-standing C.S. 8194 open item (flagged v1.15). The retrieval method the requester described - a "1"-prefixed "Filed Map" indexing convention for County Surveyor numbers - could not be confirmed against documented LA County Public Works policy via this note's own search; the identification is instead grounded in direct content match (see Reference 71) and is not contingent on that theory being correct. This is logged as a case where a specific claimed mechanism went unverified but the underlying finding held up anyway on independent grounds - worth distinguishing from cases where an unverified mechanism and an unverified conclusion stand or fall together.

- Perplexity/GeminiAI misattribution corrected (v1.20): this note twice stated, at the CSLA-11 finding (v1.11) and again at the arithmetic-catch entry (v1.19), that a verification step was warranted by "Perplexity's documented fabrication history on this project," citing the Case No. 5630 index episode. This was wrong: that episode - a fabricated second defendant, a

misread referee name, a fabricated survey day, and an altered acreage figure - was GeminiAI's error, not Perplexity's, and is attributed to GeminiAI consistently everywhere else in this note (References 51-53, the Source Hierarchy's Tier 5 exclusion, and the Section 9 entries describing that episode directly). The requester caught this by direct question rather than this note catching it on its own - worth stating plainly rather than folding into a general "self- correction" framing. Nothing in this note's own record shows Perplexity Computer fabricating a claim on this project at any point; every verification of a Perplexity-sourced claim in this note's history reflects a general practice of checking any AI- sourced claim independently, not a Perplexity-specific concern, and every one of those checks has held up. Both instances corrected v1.20.

- RW9-RW11 right-of-way series, three-way reconciliation (v1.20): the requester supplied four LACFCD right-of-way sheets (Reference 72) to this note, ChatGPT, and Perplexity Computer in parallel. All three converged on the core finding - continuous cadastral lineage from the 1868/1876 partition through 20th-century flood-control mapping, not a restatement of the historic creek course - consistent with this note's existing treatment of References 70-71. Beyond that point, reviews diverged in reliability. ChatGPT's read was accurate but incomplete: it named the Machado/Talamantes ownership continuity clearly but did not surface the Case No. 5630/C.F. 18 annotation, the single most actionable new lead on the sheets. Perplexity Computer's read surfaced more specific claims but several did not survive this note's own direct image inspection: a proposed "1935 and 1968" dating for the series could not be confirmed (this note instead found and independently confirmed a legible "8-4-39" permit date on Sheet 17-RW-11 Sheet 2); a claimed "C.F. 54" annotation distinct from Reference 70's "C.F. 64" could not be located; a specific second case number ("105743") could not be read clearly enough to confirm, though a second litigation-style annotation block with its own distinct dates does appear to exist; and a detailed table of divergent acreage readings across sheets (variously with leading digits 25, 26, or 28 for figures otherwise matching the established partition-table values) was not independently verified and is not adopted, since inconsistent leading-digit OCR misreads are at least as plausible an explanation as genuine acreage evolution across four scans of varying quality. None of this indicates a Perplexity-specific reliability problem - see the separate Section 9 entry correcting this note's own prior misattribution on that point - it reflects the same caution this note applies to any AI-derived reading of a physical document that has not yet been checked against the image directly.

- In-person archival verification, Norwalk and Alhambra (v1.21): the requester conducted direct, in-person research at the Los Angeles County Recorder's Map Room in Norwalk and held direct consultations with LADPW Land Records staff in Alhambra, resolving a naming ambiguity this note had been unable to close through search or AI-assisted document reading alone. This is worth recording explicitly as a distinct category of evidence: every other verification method in this note's history - independent AI re-reads, web search against institutional finding aids, direct image inspection - is a remove from the physical archive itself. This is not. Confirmed: Book 3, Miscellaneous Records, pages 204-209 (Reference 70) is the underlying recorded map of record, physically held at the Recorder's office; "C.F. 64" (Reference 69) and a newly-identified "C.F. 16"

are both administrative index labels for that same instrument, not competing or separate primary sources. CORRECTED (v1.24): the claim that C.F. 16 labels this same instrument was wrong - see Reference 70 and Reference 73 for the correction. C.F. 16 and C.F. 64 are entries for two different cases (965 and 2722 respectively) in the court's own map register, not two labels for one document. This entry is left otherwise unmodified as the historical record of what was believed at v1.21 and why; it should not be relied on for the C.F. 16 point going forward. Also confirmed, directly from LADPW staff rather than inferred: the recurring naming confusion this note has documented at multiple points - CSLA-11 (Reference 60), the unconfirmed "C.F. 54" (Reference 72) - reflects a real, acknowledged property of how this document family has been filed and re-filed across different indexing systems over time, not an error introduced by this note's own research process. The "C.F. 54" item at Reference 72 remains separately unconfirmed and is not resolved by this finding; the two should not be conflated simply because both involve a two-digit "C.F." label attached to material in this same general document family.

- Second wave of in-person verification, Norwalk Map Room (v1.22): the requester photographed the bound volume of Book 3, Miscellaneous Records directly, in person, following up the field trip already logged at v1.21. This produced two outcomes worth distinguishing. First, confirmation rather than new content: the Table of Partition figures already transcribed in this note from a supplied download (Reference 70) match the in-person photograph exactly, digit for digit - a direct check of this note's own prior transcription against the original bound volume, and it held up completely. Second, genuinely new content: the 1876 map's own title block gives its own magnetic variation, "Var. 14°30'E," never previously recorded in this note and distinct from the separately-established "Var. 14°15'E" belonging to the different, earlier 1868 Courtney Map (Reference 55/68) - two different surveys, no discrepancy between them, simply two facts that had not both been captured before. Also newly noted: the 1876 map's own preamble independently cites the 1868 case caption as "Ygnacio Machado," read with reasonable confidence by this note from the photograph - additional evidence in the still-open Section 3 spelling question, not a resolution of it, since this is a different scribe's later citation rather than the 1868 document's own hand.

- Third field-photo batch, scope discipline (v1.23): the requester supplied a third set of in-person Norwalk photographs, taken with a different camera at higher resolution. Two of the four images were sharper re-photographs of material already in this note (Reference 70's title block and Table of Partition), and were used to tighten two v1.22 hedges rather than add content: "Var. 14°30'E" is now confirmed unambiguous rather than merely recorded, and the "Ygnacio" reading in the 1876 map's own case-caption citation is now read with confidence rather than reasonable confidence. The other two images were a different document entirely - a 1905 Board of Supervisors street-vacation order for the Playa del Rey townsite - genuinely interesting, connected to the same rancho lands, but outside this memo's scope (decades later, a different subject: urban platting rather than the 1868/1876 partition or the historic creek). Logged as a deferred open item for a distinct future companion piece (Section 6) rather than folded into this memo's References - consistent with this note's standing practice of scoping additions to what

the document is actually about, rather than including everything supplied simply because it was supplied.

- C.F. 16/C.F. 64 correction, and how it was actually resolved (v1.24): v1.21 stated, based on in-person consultation with LADPW Land Records staff, that C.F. 16 and C.F. 64 were two administrative labels for the same underlying map. This was wrong. The requester subsequently obtained photographs of the Los Angeles Superior/ District Court's own master map register (Reference 73) - a different, more authoritative source than the LADPW consultation, being the originating court's own internal index rather than a later archive's finding aid - which shows unambiguously that entry 16 is Case No. 965 (Reference 55, the 1868 partition) and entry 64 is Case No. 2722 (References 56/69/70, the 1876 partition): two different cases, not one document under two names. Corrected at References 55, 70, and 73, and at the corresponding v1.21 Section 9 entry above, which is left in place with an appended correction rather than rewritten, per this note's standing practice. Worth stating plainly what this episode actually demonstrates: even direct, in-person, expert consultation - the strongest evidentiary tier this note has used - was not sufficient on its own, and needed to be checked against a still more authoritative primary source (the court's own register) before being accepted as settled. The standing discipline of treating every claim as checkable, regardless of how strong its apparent source, held up again here. The requester has separately noted that this specific naming question had been an open, personally unresolved puzzle for roughly ten years prior to this note's research - worth recording as context for why no single institution's own records ever surfaced the connection: in this instance, each system (the court's register, the County Recorder's M.R. citations, LMU's CSLA-11 catalog, the Huntington's own metadata) proved complete and internally consistent on its own terms, without having been built to reference the others - the same pattern this note treats elsewhere (Closing Reflection, front-matter TARC directive) as a heuristic drawn from this investigation rather than a general property of archival systems (outside review, v1.59). See Reference 73 for the fuller statement of that finding.

- Reference 73 named "Rosetta Stone" (v1.25): the requester proposed this epithet after the C.F. 16/64 correction, and it is adopted here, informally, in Reference 73's own entry and in the Closing Reflection. The name is apt for the specific reason it resolved a problem no other source in this note's record could: it is the only document found that states the connection between two otherwise disconnected institutional identifier systems in one place. Not a change to any finding - a naming decision, recorded as such.

- TARC research directive adopted (v1.26): following the C.F. 16/C.F. 64 correction (v1.24) and the Rosetta Stone naming (v1.25), a standing directive on cross-institutional identifier reconciliation was added to Purpose and status, alongside this note's other editorial conventions. The directive is forward-looking rather than a record of a past finding: it instructs every future reviewer of this note, human or AI, not to assume two documents are the same instrument on pattern-matching alone, to actively seek register-type sources over individual documents when reconciling identifiers, to treat one system's silence about another system's identifiers as expected rather than informative, to recognize diminishing returns on remote methods as a signal for direct

institutional inquiry rather than more searching, and to record precisely which systems a bridging source does and does not connect. This is written as binding guidance for this note's own continued research, not as a general claim about archival methodology beyond this project.

- Multiple manual copies of M.R. 3-204-209 identified (v1.27): the requester reported at least three non-identical, manually- transcribed copies filed under the same "M.R. 3-204-209" citation, differing in the lagoon drawing, dune/hillside contours, Ballona Creek path notation, and handwriting, per LADPW Land Records staff. This is a structurally different problem from the C.F. 16/C.F. 64 correction (v1.24), and worth distinguishing clearly: that earlier error was two different labels wrongly treated as one document; this is one label that may legitimately cover several different physical documents, a consequence of pre-reprographic recordkeeping this note had not previously accounted for. The requester's own framing is apt and worth preserving here directly: before copy machines, couriers, or any mechanical means of reproduction, an official copy of a map meant a clerk manually re-drew it, and each re-drawing was an opportunity for real variation, not just a change in handwriting. This note's existing Reference 70 citations are not withdrawn - they remain accurate for whichever copy was actually photographed - but every specific reading drawn from that reference now carries an open question this note cannot yet answer: which copy, relative to the others. Extended the TARC research directive (Purpose and status) with a sixth point addressing this directly, and logged a major open item in Section 6 with concrete next steps. This is exactly the kind of gap the newly-adopted directive (v1.26) was written to anticipate, one revision later than expected - itself a small demonstration that a standing directive earns its place by catching the next problem, not just the one that prompted it.

- Multiple-copies finding confirmed with specifics (v1.28): the requester supplied two targeted crops - Reference 70's page 206 and Reference 69's title sheet - specifically for direct visual comparison of the dune/lagoon feature the v1.27 open item flagged in general terms. This note's own inspection confirms a real difference: a simple two-shape rendering on one, an elaborate multi-loop chain on the other. Worth being precise about what this does and does not establish. It does not undermine Reference 70's own cross-reference tying it to C.F. 64 as copies of the same underlying survey and partition - that cross-reference is in the document's own hand and stands. What it does establish is narrower and still significant: "copies of the same instrument" evidently did not mean identical graphical transcription in every hand-drawn feature, at least for this one detail. This note is not in a position to say why - earlier/later transcription, differing source condition, or genuine differences in what was being depicted are all possibilities not yet distinguishable from two crops alone. Recorded as confirmed evidence rather than a hypothesis, but with the limits of that confirmation stated plainly rather than overextended to features not actually compared.

- Own v1.28 description corrected on better evidence (v1.29): the requester supplied higher-resolution crops of the same two sheets compared at v1.28, and this note's own re-examination found its prior description ("two separate, simple closed shapes" versus "an elaborate chain of multiple small connected loops") to be an inaccurate characterization of what the clearer

images actually show. The corrected reading: comparable numbers of features in comparable positions on both sheets, rendered in genuinely different drafting conventions (beaded loop-chains on one, continuous hachured loops plus stippled ovals on the other) rather than one sheet having a simpler depiction than the other. Worth being direct about this: the v1.28 description was this note's own visual read, at lower resolution, and it was not careful enough - it described a difference in apparent complexity that a clearer look does not actually support as stated. This is corrected in place at Reference 70 and Section 6, per this note's standing practice, rather than quietly revised. The substantive point from v1.28 survives in modified form: a real difference in rendering convention between References 69 and 70 is confirmed, but the v1.29 correction changes what that difference most plausibly means - differing personal convention between two clerks is a materially different, and lower-stakes, explanation than differing underlying content would have been, and this note should not have implied the latter as strongly as the v1.28 wording did.

- CSLA-11 full-sheet examination and original-copy lead (v1.30): the requester supplied the first full-sheet view of CSLA-11 in this note's record, allowing direct examination of the same dune/lagoon location already compared at v1.28-29. This note's own inspection found a third rendering convention (dotted/stippled outline ovals), tentatively closer to Reference 70's style than Reference 69's, but explicitly held as tentative given the image is a whole-sheet scan reduced for printing rather than a targeted high-resolution crop. Separately, the requester relayed an unconfirmed suggestion from LMU staff that CSLA-11 may be the original instrument, or one of the originals. This note treats that claim the same way it treats any secondhand institutional claim per the TARC research directive (Purpose and status): worth recording and pursuing, not worth adopting until it can be checked - in this case, against a full-resolution image and, ideally, LMU's own stated reasoning rather than a relayed summary of it. If confirmed, this would be a genuinely significant development for the still-open question of which known copy is the original; if not confirmed, or if LMU's reasoning turns out to rest on something other than direct evidence of priority, that should be recorded just as plainly. Recorded now as a lead, deliberately not as a finding.

- CSLA-11 physical evidence and numeric divergence (v1.31): a high-resolution color photograph of the physical CSLA-11 sheet produced two findings of different character, worth keeping distinct. The physical-support observation (linen, foxing, hand wash) is circumstantial: consistent with an original, not proof of one, and stated as such. The numeric comparison is a different kind of evidence entirely - a direct, checkable digit-by-digit comparison this note ran itself (not an AI summary) against its own prior transcription, finding five of thirteen figures diverging, some substantially. This is the first purely numeric evidence in this note's multiple-copies investigation, as distinct from the graphical convention differences examined at v1.28-30, and it changes the character of the open question. Differing drafting style is consistent with the same content, differently drawn. Differing acreage figures are not so easily explained that way - they mean at least two copies record different numbers for the same allotment, and only one (or neither) can be correct. This note does not know which, and says so directly rather than

defaulting to whichever source was transcribed first. The honest position is that this note's own prior "established" figures (Reference 72) have lost their presumption of authority - they were never verified against a primary source independent of the copy problem itself, only internally cross-checked against other citations of the same unverified transcription. That is a meaningful thing to notice about this note's own past confidence, not just about the historical record.

- Caught misreading, and a useful pattern (v1.32): this note initially misread a case number on a CSLA-11 title-block crop as "966" and raised it as a potential discrepancy before asking the requester to confirm. It reads "965," consistent with every other citation of this case throughout this note - no discrepancy existed. Worth stating plainly rather than treating as trivial: this is exactly the outcome the standing practice of asking before recording a discrepancy is meant to produce, and it worked as intended here - the alternative (recording "966" without confirmation) would have introduced a real error into a foundational case number cited dozens of times across this note. Separately, the underlying observation the requester drew this note's attention to is a genuinely useful pattern worth carrying forward: across every copy examined in the v1.28-32 investigation, boilerplate legal text (case numbers, dates, referee names) has transcribed consistently, while hand-drawn content (map features, acreage figures) has not. That asymmetry is a reasonable, though unconfirmed, explanation for how these copies came to diverge at all, and it may be useful going forward as a rough guide to which categories of information in this document family are more and less trustworthy across copies without individual verification.

- Standing caution: these review and search passes were themselves conducted via web search against public sources and inherit the same limitations as the rest of this note - not a substitute for pulling the underlying primary documents directly.

- Terminology correction, "Miscellaneous Records" vs. "Miscellaneous Maps" (v1.33): this note has referred to the M.R. 3-204-209 citation as "Miscellaneous Records" throughout, from v1.15 forward (see, for example, the v1.15 and v1.21 Version block entries and the body text of Section 7 and Reference 70 prior to v1.33). The requester subsequently photographed the physical bound volume at the Los Angeles County Recorder's Norwalk facility directly: its spine reads "MISCELLANEOUS MAPS 2-3" (Books 2 and 3 bound together), not Miscellaneous Records. This is corrected in the body text and in Reference 70/71 above; per this note's standing correction-forward convention, the Version block entries that used the earlier term (v1.15, v1.21, v1.24, v1.27, and others) are left unaltered as historical record rather than retroactively edited, and this entry serves as the correction notice for all of them. Separately confirmed, and worth recording as a positive check rather than a complication: Reference 53 (Los Angeles County Public Works, Miscellaneous Records Book 17, page 77, the Case No. 5630/1887 Cota

    v. de Yorba partition) is correctly cited as "Miscellaneous Records"

    – the requester's own photograph of that physically distinct, separately-labeled bound volume ("MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS 17, LOS ANGELES COUNTY") at the same Norwalk facility confirms a real, separate "Miscellaneous Records" series exists alongside

"Miscellaneous Maps," and that Reference 53's citation was not swept up in this correction because it did not need to be. The two series should not be conflated going forward; where either "M.R." abbreviation appears in future revisions, the full series name should be stated at least once nearby to avoid re-introducing this ambiguity.

- Attribution correction, "the surveyor's own hand" (v1.33): several entries (Section 7, References 69 and 70) previously stated that the "Ballona Creek" label and related on-sheet text appeared "in the surveyor's own hand," implying Alfred Solano specifically. The sheet establishes Solano's stated role as assistant surveyor and draughtsman and Geo. Hansen's stated role as certifying referee; it does not, by itself, establish whose actual handwriting produced any specific label, since referees, draughtsmen, and unidentified clerks/copyists could all plausibly have lettered portions of a period map of this kind. This attribution is withdrawn as unsupported by the cited evidence and corrected in place in the affected entries; the underlying finding (that the watercourse is labeled by name directly on the sheet, rather than inferred from a filename) is unaffected and stands.

- Two-reviewer convergence and one open discrepancy from the v1.33 pass: both ChatGPT and Perplexity Computer, reviewing the same new photographs independently, converged on substantially the same four-part evidentiary structure for the firsthand-provenance and uniqueness claims (directly established / research status / staff-sourced finding / not established) without having seen each other's language - recorded here as a genuine independent convergence, not a shared template. One discrepancy did not converge: this note's working reading of the filing endorsement's deputy clerk name ("D.W. Maclellan") differs from an independent reviewer's reading ("D. W. McClellan") of the same two-word signature; neither reading has been confirmed against the physical sheet by the requester, and this is left open rather than resolved by preference - see Reference 70.

- Own error caught and corrected, strip-acreage table (v1.34): this note's v1.33 reading of the strip-parcel acreage fan diagram, drawn from a diagonal photograph, was mis-paired by one row from "Vicenta M. de Lugo" onward - the exact risk that entry itself had flagged without being able to verify. A subsequent straight-on, ruled photograph resolved this; the corrected reading is confirmed by an independent transcription from Perplexity Computer matching exactly, including a previously-uncaptured figure (Jose de la Luz Machado, 26.30835). Recorded plainly, consistent with this note's practice of documenting its own errors rather than only external ones (compare the v1.28-29 dune/lagoon description and the v1.32 "966/965" near miss). One consequence worth noting: two of the three names this error had put in front of reviewers as part of the numeric-divergence picture (Juan and Andres Machado) turn out, once correctly paired, to match CSLA-11 rather than diverge from it - the corrected reading changed the substance of the finding, not just its accuracy.

- Convergent and divergent readings, the v1.34 pass, in one place: two independent reviewers, working from the same set of new photographs, converged exactly on the strip-acreage table (Perplexity Computer) and independently reached the same "surveyor's own hand" attribution

correction as this note (ChatGPT), without either being prompted with the other's language. The same pass produced two persistent, unresolved micro-discrepancies of the same shape - a specific word or name read differently by different reviewers off the same crop, with no clear way to adjudicate remotely: the certification's wording ("referred in" vs. "referred to in" my report of partition) and the deputy clerk's name ("Maclellan" vs. "McClellan"). Both are carried forward as open rather than resolved by count. NOT ADOPTED: one reviewer's comments on this material included an unprompted, specific claim (a second referee name, "E. H. Boyd") that does not appear on any photograph, in either handoff memo, or anywhere else in this note's record. Per this note's standing treatment of unsupported AI-sourced specifics (Source Hierarchy, Tier 5; compare the GeminiAI Case 5630 episode), this is not logged as even a flagged possibility

  - there is nothing in this note's record to check it against, and including it would misrepresent an isolated, unverified claim as something worth weighing.

- Second CSLA-11 photograph complicates rather than resolves (v1.35): a sharper, independently-supplied crop of CSLA-11 read Juan and Andres Machado's strip acreages differently than the v1.31 CSLA-11 photograph had - matching the "established" Reference 55/69/70 figures instead of the M.R. 3-204-209 figures the v1.34 "significant result" rested on. This note is treating this as a second, conflicting data point rather than as the sharper image automatically superseding the earlier one; the v1.34 finding is marked provisional in Section 6, not withdrawn. Worth stating plainly: this is this note's second finding-reversal risk in two consecutive revisions (after the v1.34 row-pairing correction), both arising from the same underlying difficulty - transcribing small handwritten figures from photographs of varying quality - and both caught before being allowed to stand as settled. The requester's own suggestion in response - that the divergence may reflect genuine post-1876 private conveyances among neighboring heirs, rather than transcription error on anyone's part - is recorded in full at Section 3a as a working hypothesis, and is, on balance, a better-fitting explanation for a two-sided disagreement that keeps failing to resolve toward one "correct" reading no matter how many times it is re-examined.

- Scope decision (v1.35): the requester has stated plainly that further primary-source acquisition - specifically, the deed/conveyance search that would test the Section 3a hypothesis, and the several other remaining "next steps" accumulated across this note's open items - is future work for another researcher, not work this note's author will perform. This is recorded here as a deliberate scope decision, not a gap in the research: this note's remaining TARC rounds from this point are quality-control passes over the record as it stands, ahead of publication, not further evidence-gathering.

- A three-way reading disagreement, resolved by going back to the source rather than by count (v1.36): the "C.F. 78 or M.R. 17-77-79" annotation was read differently by this note, by each outside reviewer in turn, and by a reviewer's own later self-correction, over several passes. It was settled not by preferring whichever reading had the most votes at any given moment, but by this note's own direct high-resolution re-examination of the source image, checked against

an independent, unrelated government source (a City of Los Angeles land-base map) that had no stake in any of these transcriptions. That independent, disinterested source - not the accumulated weight of AI re-reads - is what actually closed the question, and is recorded here as the general lesson: when transcription readings diverge repeatedly on the same source, the fix is usually an independent source that can adjudicate, not another re-read of the same image by another reader.

- A structural correction from outside review, adopted in full (v1.36): this note's characterization of the ~60-62 acre parcels on page 205 as a probable "later re-platting layer," offered as a reasonable working description in the moment, was checked against page 207's own tract arithmetic by outside review and found not to hold - the figures are tract components of the original 1876 partition, not a later system. This note withdrew the characterization rather than qualifying it, consistent with the general practice of correcting an error fully once identified rather than softening it in place. The same review corrected two of this note's own deed-citation digits and this note's speculative reading of a Ramona S. de Machado acreage figure - both accepted without reservation once independently re-checked.

- A pattern worth naming plainly: confident, specific, and wrong, three different ways (v1.37). Both outside reviewers, working from the same Reference 53/74 material this note had already transcribed directly, independently produced full, confident-sounding transcriptions of the referee's name, the Yorba heir's given name, and the recording deputy's name - and none of the resulting six proper nouns matched each other or matched this note's own from-source reading ("M.F. Coronel"/"W.H. Coronel"/"Wm. H. Courner"; "Eralinda-or-Erolinda"/"Trinidad"/"Enriqueta"; this note's tentative "Bugbee?"/"George Douglas"/"George Buzwell"). None of the AI-supplied alternative readings were adopted. The pattern is recorded here because it is more useful than any single caught error: when degraded period cursive is genuinely hard to read, an AI reviewer working from an image will sometimes produce a plausible, specific, confidently-stated name rather than an honest "not legible" - and the only reliable defense this note has found against that is re-checking against the source image directly, not comparing multiple AI readings against each other and picking the most common one. CONFIRMED (v1.37, after this entry was first drafted): the requester directly confirmed the deputy's surname as "Bugbee" - this note's own tentative reading, not either outside reviewer's. The referee and heir-name questions were resolved the same way earlier in v1.37 (Reference 53): by re-checking the source, not by averaging readings.

- A structural correction to this note's own Roadmap, caught by outside review (v1.39): the Roadmap's one-line summary of Case No. 5630 as "unrelated in scope to the 1868 or 1875-76 proceedings" was checked against Reference 53's now-complete content and found to overstate the separation. The case was legally distinct, but its own map repeatedly ties its boundaries to "Old Partition Stake" markers from the earlier partition framework - the surveyor was working from physical monuments the 1868/1875-76 proceedings had left on the ground, not surveying in isolation. The Roadmap line is revised accordingly. This note held back from over-correcting in the other direction: a boundary name-match (Bernardino Machado, adjoining Lot

1) that might seem to support an even stronger claim of continuity is flagged as unconfirmed rather than folded into the revised Roadmap language, since the stake annotations alone are sufficient evidence and don't need an unverified identity claim to support them.

- Un-TARC'd background material, handled consistently regardless of authorship (v1.40): the requester's own compiled background paper on the Talamantes/Wilson/Sanford foreclosure sequence was treated by this note, and independently by both outside reviewers, the same way any AI-sourced or third-party compiled synthesis is treated in this note - useful for direction, not citable as established fact until checked. This note ran that check directly (web search against four independent sources) rather than only recommending that it be done. The result: most of the paper's specific figures corroborated, one digit discrepancy caught ($238.81 vs. $239.81), one specific date left unconfirmed as of this v1.40 pass (the January 2, 1857 deed; SUBSEQUENTLY CORROBORATED, v1.42 - see Section 3), and one genuinely new connection confirmed (George Addison Sanford's family relationship to the 1854 mortgagees). Recorded here as a demonstration that this note's own source-tiering discipline applies evenly - a document the requester compiled personally gets the same verification treatment as a document an AI reviewer supplied, not more trust and not less.

- PRE-PUBLICATION HARMONIZATION, noted and explicitly not completed at v1.40: the requester has indicated that a full harmonization and conflict-resolution pass across the entire memo is still needed before publication to the Internet Archive. v1.40 closed out the specific items raised in that session (the Talamantes/Wilson background paper, the Roadmap correction, the Bernal/Bernol and proper-noun findings) but does not constitute that broader pass. A non-exhaustive list of items a future harmonization pass should specifically check: the 1863-vs-1865 petition-filing-date discrepancy (Section 3, still unresolved); the buyer-list discrepancy for Wilson's 1859 conveyance (two vs. three names, still unresolved); the Bernal/Bernol artifact-vs-copy divergence (Reference 53, still open); the certification-wording and any other micro-discrepancies logged across Sections 6 and 9; and a general pass to confirm no stale cross-reference or superseded figure survives from the session's several corrected findings. This list is a starting point for that future pass, not a substitute for it. SUBSEQUENTLY LARGELY CARRIED OUT (v1.41-v1.51): the broader harmonization pass this entry anticipates was substantially performed across the TARC handoff rounds that followed - the pre-publication reality check (v1.41), four Perplexity Computer and five ChatGPT reconciliation rounds, and this note's own corrections between them - closing or narrowing most items on the list above (see Section 6 and the Version block for current status of each). This note does not rewrite this v1.40 entry's own characterization of what was still needed at the time, consistent with standing practice; the forward-pointer records only that the gap it identified has since been substantially addressed.

Closing Reflection

This memorandum is not intended to be the final word on the history of Rancho La Ballona. It is a snapshot of the present state of research, based on the best primary and secondary sources available at the time of publication.

Between the 1839 Mexican land grant and the channelization of Ballona Creek nearly a century later lies a remarkably complex history: multiple generations of the same families, a change of national sovereignty and legal system, repeated partition actions, competing surveys, and archival records dispersed across federal, state, county, and private repositories that this research brought together, as far as this work has been able to determine, for the first time in a single integrated treatment. This memorandum traced that complexity through five successive stages - the Mexican grant itself; Henry Hancock's 1858 federal boundary survey; the 1868 Young v. Machado judicial partition; a sequence of further partitions among specific heirs and parties (Case No. 2722 in 1875-76, legal successor to the 1868 allotments, and Case No. 5630 in 1887, legally separate property cadastrally connected to the earlier framework rather than a further legal succession of it - see Section 3a; and at least one further unconfirmed lead); and the twentieth-century assessor, railroad, and infrastructure records that carried the same land into the modern city. Each stage produced its own map, though not every stage produced a judicial table of partition in the strict sense - the twentieth-century assessor and infrastructure records are administrative re-platting, not partition decrees. Later records should be read as documenting what happened to the earlier allotments over time - by legal succession in some cases, by cadastral connection alone in others - not as competing accounts of them (Section 3a).

One conclusion emerges consistently throughout this work: many narratives about Ballona that have become accepted through repetition are more simplified than the surviving documentary record supports. Three case numbers touch this land's history, related to each other and to the 1868 decree in two distinct ways - legal succession for one, and cadastral connection alone for the other - not by a single, uniform chain of successive transfers; outside review (v1.59) flagged the original "required…to account for how this land actually changed hands" phrasing as compressing that distinction into a single narrative of successive changes of hands, which Case No. 5630 specifically does not fit. A single surveyor's surname remains genuinely unresolved - not because no one looked carefully, but because the primary source itself supports two readings. A single misplaced decimal point briefly turned a real fifteen-acre parcel into a fabricated contradiction, caught only because an unrelated figure happened to already be on record for comparison. None of these are failures of this research; they are accurate reports of what the evidence will and will not support.

This memorandum should therefore be read not as the end of an investigation but as the beginning of a better-documented one. Future discoveries - newly digitized archives, overlooked court records, private collections, or contradictory primary sources - will almost certainly require revision. That is not a weakness of historical research; it is its normal progression, and the version history at the end of this document exists specifically so that progression stays visible rather than hidden.

One finding late in this research deserves to be named rather than left as a routine correction among many. A specific naming question - what “C.F. 16” and “C.F. 64” actually designate - had gone unresolved for roughly a decade prior to this note’s work, not for lack of effort, but because the answer had not been found in any of the institution-specific catalogs and records this note had consulted, each of which knows only its own system. The Recorder’s office knows its own volume and page numbers. The court’s own map register knows its own case-number index. LMU’s catalog knows its own CSLA designation. The Huntington’s catalog knows its own. In every instance this note encountered, each system proved complete and internally correct on its own terms, without being built to reference the others, because no single institution had a reason to ask the cross-referencing question this note needed answered - the same heuristic, drawn from this investigation rather than asserted as a general property of archival systems, that the front-matter TARC directive now states explicitly (outside review, v1.59). What finally closed it was not a cleverer search or a more careful reading of any one source, but locating the one document positioned to translate between all of them at once: the court’s own master map register (Reference 73), informally named here the Rosetta Stone of this document family for exactly that reason. It resolved in one sitting what a decade of searching within any single system could not, because it was the only source, among those this research located, that had ever recorded the connection between two of these systems. In this investigation, the successful strategy was recognizing that when archival identifiers refuse to reconcile across institutions, a better search of any one collection is unlikely to be the fix - it is finding whichever single source was built to speak more than one institution’s language, and if none can be found, going and asking the institutions directly, in person, the specific cross-referencing question none of their own catalogs was designed to answer. Outside review (v1.56) flagged the original wording of this paragraph as generalizing beyond what one successful case can establish - corrected above to state this as the lesson drawn from this investigation, not as a demonstrated general rule about archival research.

If this work accomplishes anything, it is meant to encourage readers to move past inherited summaries and back to the original evidence. The goal here is not simply to provide answers, but to demonstrate how a specific historical question can be investigated using primary sources, careful documentation, and transparent reasoning about what is and is not yet known. As the old proverb has it: give a person a fish, and you feed them for a day; teach a person to fish, and you feed them for a lifetime. This memorandum is offered less as a finished catch than as an invitation - and a rough map of the water - for others to keep fishing.

A note on scope, added at v1.35: this note’s author has taken personal, in-person primary-source recovery about as far as a single researcher practically can - the archival trail behind the findings above required direct consultation with LADPW Land Records staff and multiple visits to the County Recorder’s own Room L001 in Norwalk to locate a single map book, and further threads (a targeted deed-and-conveyance search, a full-resolution CSLA-11 image and LMU’s own stated reasoning, a consistent-scale overlay comparison of every known manual copy of M.R. 3-204-209) would each require comparable effort of their own. Several such threads are identified in this memorandum precisely enough - the specific names, dates, volumes, and questions involved - for a future researcher to pick up directly,

without re-deriving the groundwork already done here. That is offered deliberately as this memorandum's stopping point for this phase of work, not as an oversight.

This memorandum is offered, explicitly and by design, as a working instance of an argument this note's author has made elsewhere in print: "The Seed Crystal: Why Some AI Projects Deserve to Outlive the Session" (Thomas L. McMahon, first publicly disclosed August 5, 2026, https://archive.org/details/the-seed-crystal-ia). That essay's central claim is that most AI-assisted work is disposable by nature - a question asked, an answer given, nothing worth preserving past the session - but that some undertakings cross into being genuine projects, where a properly built document can let a different AI, from a different company, possibly years later, continue the work without first reconstructing what came before - not because anything was remembered, but because the document itself was built to be handed off. This memorandum's own construction - the correction-forward version history running from v0.1 through the present revision, the Triple-AI Recursive Consensus Review methodology this note's author coined and has applied throughout, the handoff memos written explicitly for a fresh AI session with no memory of what came before - is not a loose echo of that essay's argument. It is the same author applying the same named methodology to a different subject, and this memorandum can reasonably be read as that essay's own thesis demonstrated in practice, not merely stated. A seed crystal is useful because of what it makes legible for the next hand to take hold of, not because it grew to its full and final size on its own; that is as true of this research note as it is of the essay that gave the idea its name.

References

[1] Cheviot Hills History, "Historic Ranchos," https://www.cheviothillshistory.org/home/miscellany/spanish-mexican-ranchos/

[2] Wikipedia, "Rancho La Ballona," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rancho_La_Ballona (non-primary; replace before citing)

[3] Grokipedia, "Rancho La Ballona," https://grokipedia.com/page/rancho_la_ballona - EXCLUDED per Source Hierarchy: retained here only for provenance (it was consulted early in this note's compilation), not to be cited or relied upon going forward. It contributes no independent evidentiary value beyond what Wikipedia and the Tier 1-2 sources already provide.

[4] Summa Corp. v. California ex rel. State Lands Comm'n, 466 U.S. 198 (1984): Justia https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/466/198/ ; Cornell LII https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/466/198 ; FindLaw https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-supreme-court/466/198.html

[5] S. Ravi Tam (pseud.), Distant Vistas: Exploring the Historic Neighborhoods of Mar Vista (2013), excerpt via https://en.pdfdrive.to/dl/rancho-la-ballona-history-by-s-ravi-tam-ballona-excerpt

[6] OAC finding aid, Rancho La Ballona Property Records, 1868-1926 (MS123), Loyola Marymount University Hannon Library, https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8k360c1/ - source, v0.14, for the 1863 petition date and 23-section decree description (Sections 3, 6).

[7] OAC finding aid, 1876 Rancho La Ballona partition map (Hansen), https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt258035h8/

[8] Huntington Digital Library, Map of the Rancho "La Ballona," https://hdl.huntington.org/digital/collection/p15150coll4/id/11328 - CONFIRMED (v1.13): this catalog record's own descriptive summary ("containing 13919.90 acres… according to survey made by (L. Seebold for Hansen), under instructions from H. Hancock, July, 1858 showing partition made by J.J. Warner, H. Thomas & E. H. Boyd. Variation 14°15' E.") independently matches this note's v1.12 title-block transcription on every point - acreage, Hancock attribution, all three referee names, and the magnetic variation - from an institutional source consulted after, not before, this note's own independent reading. Also notes the map is "Bordered by Pacific Ocean," relevant to the Section 6 Station 83 open item.

[9] Calisphere, Map of the Rancho "La Ballona," https://calisphere.org/item/fe0c51025e6a549d2da89b1b5ef68dfc/ - source, v0.14, for the referee names J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, E. H. Boyd (Sections 3-5, 6).

[10] Calisphere, Rancho la Ballona: S87, partition of 1868, https://calisphere.org/item/358b42583f718d36904a124d4f539d7a/

[11] Berkeley Digital Collections, land case index entries for Rancho La Ballona and Rancho San Vicente y Santa Monica (Case 143 SD), https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/ - see also Reference 37 for the direct case-file record now cited for Section 1.

[12] Andrew F. Rolle, "Wagon Pass Rancho Withers Away: La Ballona, 1821-1952," Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly (June 1952).

[13] Sister Mary Ste. Therese Wittenburg, The Machados & Rancho La Ballona (Dawson's Book Shop, Los Angeles, 1973).

[14] W. W. Robinson, Culver City, California: A Calendar of Events… Together with the Story of… Rancho La Ballona and Rancho Rincon de los Bueyes (Title Guarantee and Trust Co., 1941).

[15] ballonacreek.org, history page, https://ballonacreek.org/history/

[16] Wikipedia, "Port Ballona, California," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Ballona,_California (non-primary; replace before citing)

[17] South Bay Oceanfront, "Explore Real Estate in Playa Del Rey California" (historical narrative on Wicks/Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company dredging, 1885-1887, and, per v0.14, the 1874 Tell-

eviction/1877 Duffy detail), https://southbayoceanfront.com/explore-playa-del-rey-california/ (non-primary; replace before citing)

[18] Friends of Ballona Wetlands, "History of Ballona Wetlands," https://www.ballonafriends.org/history-of-ballona-wetlands (per house sourcing rules, excluded as a supporting source for Ballona historical fact; used here only as a lead to primary sources, not as a citation)

[19] Wikipedia, "Long Wharf (Santa Monica)," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Wharf_(Santa_Monica) (non-primary; distinguishes the Southern Pacific/Santa Monica Long Wharf project from the Wicks/Port Ballona project)

[20] PBS SoCal Lost LA, "How Santa Monica Almost Became a Commercial Harbor," https://www.pbssocal.org/shows/lost-la/how-santa-monica-almost-became-a-commercial-harbor

[21] Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Minute Book, Thursday, November 11, 1886, pp. 279-281 (Ord. No. 33, O.S.): grant of Ship Canal, Wharf, and Dock franchise to the Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company. Primary source, user-supplied scan.

[22] Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Company, Petition to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, filed September 20, 1886, for a Ship Canal, Wharf, and Dock franchise at Ballona. Primary source, user-supplied scan.

[23] Los Angeles Herald, "Notice of Application for Canal, Wharf and Dock Franchise," dated October 7, 1886, signed Los Angeles and Santa Monica Railroad Company, by James Campbell (President) and S. P. Rees (Secretary). Primary source, user-supplied clipping.

[24] U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, "Topographical Sketch of the Proposed Harbor of Port Ballona, Los Angeles Co., Cal.," Section X, F. M. Thorn, Superintendent, executed under Asst. George Davidson by Ferdinand Westdahl, Draughtsman U.S.C.&G.S., September 1887, scale 1:10,000, with accompanying explanatory note. Primary source, user-supplied scans (title/note sheet and topographic sheet).

[25] Los Angeles Star, "Extraordinary Escape from Drowning, at La Ballona," Thursday, February 29, 1872. Primary source, user-supplied scan.

[26] "Marshy Fields" (clipping, publication/masthead and date not yet confirmed - appears to be a later historical retrospective quoting an earlier source). User-supplied scan; treat as corroborating context pending confirmation, not as a standalone primary source.

[27] "Ghosts of Old Ballona: Moye Wicks' Dream, Will Tell" (image file, not yet transcribed/analyzed). User-supplied image, pending review.

[28] Perplexity, "Reality Check: Rancho La Ballona Research Note v0.8" (peer-review pass against this note's v0.8, verifying citations and claims against public primary/secondary sources). User-supplied document; secondary review, not itself a primary source - findings folded into Sections 1-7 and 9 inline.

[29] Act of July 1, 1864, "An Act to expedite the Settlement of Titles to Lands in the State of California," cited at Summa Corp. v. California, 466 U.S. 198, n.3 (1984); see also govinfo.gov Serial Set 02256_00_00-141-1119. Cited as the likely statutory basis for the survey-objection procedure discussed in Section 2, pending reconciliation against Rolle's 'law of 1859.'

[30] German Wikipedia (mirror), "Rancho La Ballona," https://de.abcdef.wiki/wiki/Rancho_La_Ballona - non-primary; cited only as a parallel instance of the 23-section/three-category compression discussed in Sections 3-4, not as independent corroboration.

[31] Huntington Library, Rancho la Ballona: S87, partition of 1868, https://www.huntington.org/collections/lib-p15150coll4-12343 and https://calisphere.org/item/4b0bf6784d3276de5e21ba2e1e35be80/ - catalog entries referencing '3rd class land' parcel divisions, cited in Section 4 as partial corroboration of the land-class framework appearing on the primary partition map.

[32] Calisphere, Rancho La Ballona: John D. Young, et al. vs. Ygnacio Machado, et al., https://calisphere.org/item/547f8135fed3266cb8ce266fa35a2739/ - cited in Section 3 for the case caption and decree date.

[33] ChatGPT, editorial review of this note's structure, argumentation, and legal phrasing (v0.9 pass). User-supplied document; secondary editorial review, not itself a primary source - recommendations incorporated into Sections 2, 5b, 6, 7j, 7k, and the new Source Hierarchy section (the v0.9 pass also produced a Section 10, later merged into Section 9 in v0.11 - see the v0.11 changelog entry; this reference has been updated to reflect the current section structure).

[34] Perplexity, second reality-check pass against this note's v0.11 (structural/methodological review, not a new factual verification pass). User-supplied document; secondary review - confirmed the Source Hierarchy addition, the Section 2 softening, and the Grokipedia exclusion; flagged the Section 7f USC&GS transcription for scan-verification (see Section 6 open item).

[35] westland.net, Venice history article on Playa del Rey, https://www.westland.net/venicehistory/articles/playadelrey.htm - non-primary; surfaced by the v0.11 review pass as a possible lead on the Wicks/Los Angeles & Santa Monica Rail-Road Co. relationship (Section 6 open item), not yet reviewed in detail.

[36] U.S. Statutes at Large, vol. 13, p. 332, https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-13/pdf/STATUTE-13-Pg332-2.pdf - an additional govinfo citation for the Act of July 1, 1864 discussed in Section 2, alongside the Serial Set citation already at Reference 29.

[37] NEW (v0.14). Berkeley Digital Collections, case-file record for United States vs. Agustin and Ignacio Machado, Ballona, https://digicoll.lib.berkeley.edu/record/264493 - directly confirms the January 28, 1857 appeal-dismissal date and the Docket 369/123 SD/GLO 434 identifiers already carried in this note,

and adds Toma 43, 44 and Expediente 184. Cited in Section 1; resolves the corresponding Section 6 open item.

[38] NEW (v0.14). OAC finding aid, Documents for the History of the Machado Family and the Rancho la Ballona (CSLA-32), Loyola Marymount University Hannon Library, https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c82b8zkt/entire_text/ - describes an actual folder of 1868 case-adjacent documents (Hansen's surveying-expense invoice, a settlement transcription, and correspondence from attorneys Grey and Britton) not yet retrieved. Cited in Section 3/6 as the strongest available lead for resolving the 1863/1865 and 23/64 discrepancies from primary paper rather than secondary retelling.

[39] NEW (v0.14). Huntington Library, Solano-Reeve collection finding aid (mssSolano-Reeve), https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf2z09n5sv/entire_text/ - confirms the collection's provenance (purchased from Alfred Solano and Anna B. Reeve, May 1933) and lists the 1868 Hansen "Map of the Rancho 'La Ballona'" among its numbered map series. Cited in Section 4/6 as a retrieval pointer for the Report of the Survey of Partition 1868.

[40] NEW (v0.14). Cheviot Hills History, "Culver City - A Calendar of Events (1939)," https://www.cheviothillshistory.org/home/miscellany/culver-city-a-calendar-of-events-1939/ - names the 1886 Ballona Harbor and Improvement Company organizers as M. L. Wicks, H. W. Mills, R. F. Lotspeich, and Frank Sabichi, and references a right-of-way granted to the "California Central Railway Company (Santa Fe)." Non-primary (Tier 3); cited in Section 7e/6 as a new data point in the still-unresolved Wicks/rail-company question.

[41] NEW (v0.14). Wikipedia, "Mesmer family of California," https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesmer_family_of_California (non-primary; replace before citing) - dates Louis Mesmer's substantial Rancho La Ballona land interest to February 23, 1890, via inheritance from the estate of Andres Bristwalter, cutting against a Mesmer founding role in the 1886-87 harbor effort. Cited in Section 7e/6.

[42] NEW (v0.14). Santa Monica Land and Water Company Archives, "Articles," https://www.smlwco.com/from-the-archives/ (non-primary) - gives a fourth variant name and date ("Ballona Development Company," 1888) for the Wicks/Mesmer harbor venture. Cited in Section 7e/6 as further unresolved conflict, not corroboration.

[43] NEW (v0.15). Background Memorandum: Understanding the Purpose and Scope of the U.S. Surveyor-General's 1858 and 1868 Rancho Boundary Surveys, DIST-v1.1, July 28, 2026 (prepared as background for "Botanical Notations in the 1858 Hancock and 1868 Hansen Rancho Surveys," v2.2, July 26, 2026). User-supplied companion document. Cited in Section 1 for Hancock's status as a federal Deputy U.S. Surveyor and the certified-plat title-block language; cited in Section 6 for the disambiguation among three distinct 1868-1876 Hansen/Ballona-area surveys.

[44] NEW (v0.15). Geometric Uncertainty in U.S. Coast Survey T-Sheet T1432b (1876), Draft v3.25. User-supplied companion document. Cited in Sections 6-7d/7f for: the identification of T1432b's surveyor as

A. W. Chase at an anomalous 1:20,000 scale (Section 6, Chase-1875 open item); Hancock's 1858 field-note quote describing the inner bay connection as 'often obstructed' (Section 7d); and the Grossinger et al. (2011) corroboration of the Westdahl 'narrow channel at low water' quote (Section 7f).

[45] NEW (v0.15), via Reference 44. Grossinger, R.M., E.D. Stein, K.N. Cayce, R.A. Askevold, S. Dark, and A.A. Whipple. 2011. Historical Wetlands of the Southern California Coast: An Atlas of US Coast Survey T-sheets, 1851-1889. San Francisco Estuary Institute Contribution #586 / Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Technical Report #589. T1432b discussed pp. 20-23. Cited (via Reference 44, not independently re-checked against the atlas itself) for the A. W. Chase/1:20,000-scale identification and for the Westdahl 'narrow channel' quotation.

[46] NEW (v0.15). Perplexity, review pass cross-referencing this note's v0.14 against the two companion documents (References 43-44), identifying the Chase/T1432b candidate connection, the Westdahl-quote corroboration, and the Hancock 'often obstructed' quote independently of Claude's own cross-reading of the same materials. User-supplied document; secondary review, not itself a primary source - findings folded into Sections 6, 7d, 7f, and 9 inline.

[47] NEW (v0.17). User-supplied photograph, Los Angeles County Assessor map book, partition-allotment table for the Estate of Agustin Machado and related Talamantes/Valenzuela/Machado allotments (image filename: Aguilar_MDR_to_Ramona_Machado_CSB0732_Table_of_Partitions). Tier 1 cadastral record. Cited in Sections 3-4, 6 for allotment names, acreages, and the acreage-equalization pattern.

[48] NEW (v0.17). User-supplied georeferenced overlay of the same partition table on a modern aerial base, prepared by the requester (image filename: Eastern_Dunes_Notch_and_Centinela_Creek_December_14_1868). Tier 6 (the requester's own analytical product, not a period source). Cited in Section 6 for the Centinela Creek boundary question.

[49] NEW (v0.17). User-supplied photographs, Los Angeles County Assessor 'Old Map Books' (image filenames IMAG0059, IMAG0062, IMAG0068), showing later re-platting of the Machado-heir allotments, road/railroad right-of-way acreage deductions, City of Venice boundary, and 'Lot 22, Block 27, Port Ballona' references. Tier 1 cadastral records with later-hand annotations and the requester's own highlighting; the annotations and highlighting are not part of the original county records and should be read as distinguished from them. Cited in Sections 3, 6, 7b for Case No. 2722/5630, the railroad-deduction pattern, and the Port Ballona plat question.

[50] NEW (v0.17). Huntington Digital Library, catalog record for a map of the Dona Ramona Machado allotment, https://www.huntington.org/collections/lib-p15150coll2-8075, independently located and checked directly (not relayed from a search-engine snippet or from Perplexity's own citation): identifies 'District Court case no. 2722, Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al.' and 'Los Angeles Superior Court case no. 14797, In the matter of the Estate of Ramona S. de Machado, deceased.' Cited in Section 3 as the primary corroboration resolving the Case No. 2722 open item.

[51] NEW (v0.18, updated v0.19). GeminiAI, response to a query about Rancho Ballona Case 5630, asserting a specific plaintiff/defendant, referee, surveyor(s), and March 1887 decree date, together with a real URL to a Los Angeles County Public Works land-records scan. EXCLUDED per Source Hierarchy Tier 5 (see above) as an independent citable source. Two specific errors identified against the primary source itself (Reference 53): a misplaced decimal in Agustin Cota's acreage, and an apparently confabulated second surveyor name. The underlying case is real and is now cited to Reference 53 directly, not to this entry - see Section 9 for the full resolution history. Not to be cited as support for any claim in this or any derived document.

[52] NEW (v0.18). ChatGPT and Perplexity, independent review passes proposing the 'living instrument' reframing of the partition-table lineage (Section 3a) - one proposing a standing cataloging schema for future table-versions, the other proposing the generation-specific citation convention adopted in Section 3a. User-supplied documents; secondary review, not itself a primary source - the reframing and citation convention are folded into Section 3a; the convergence itself is documented in Section 9.

[53] NEW (v0.19, updated v0.20). Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Miscellaneous Records Book 17, page 77, https://pw.lacounty.gov/sur/nas/landrecords/misc/MR017/MR017-077.pdf - 'Map Showing those parts of the Rancho La Ballona in the suit of Agustin Cota vs Eralinda C. de Yorba et al ... Case No 5630,' allotment by referee M. F. Coronel, surveyed March 1887 by J. A. Bern[a/o]l (Surveyor and Civil Engineer). As of v0.20, cited to a direct photograph of the title block, independently read by two reviewers who agree on the full text except the surveyor's surname (Bernal/Bernol, a genuine source ambiguity - see Section 6). Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 6 as the resolution of the Case No. 5630 open item. MERGED WITH FORMER REFERENCE 74 (v1.37): the requester subsequently recovered, independently and by a different route, a map titled "Lot 5" bearing the annotation "For partition see C.F. 78," cross-referenced by filename to "M.R. 17, 77-79." That instrument is this same Miscellaneous Maps series - LADPW's own digital filing folder for this reference uses the path segment "MR017," and the requester's full six-page recovery of the same series (three PDFs, MR017-077/078/079, plus the requester's own direct photographs of the bound original in color) confirms the two discoveries are the same physical map family, not two coincidentally-numbered ones. The "major open question" logged at v1.36 (Reference 74) - whether this reference and that one were the same pages - is answered: they are. Former Reference 74 is retired as a standalone entry; its content is consolidated below. PAGE STRUCTURE CONFIRMED: page 77 (this reference) carries the title block and Lot 1; page 78 carries Lots 2 and 3; page 79 carries Lots 4 and 5 plus the recording endorsement. FULL TITLE BLOCK, now confirmed at high resolution from the requester's own direct photograph of the original color volume (superseding the lower-resolution reading this entry opened with): "MAP Showing those parts of the Rancho La Ballona in the suit of Agustin Cota vs Erolinda C. de Yorba et al in the Superior Court of Los Angeles Co. State of California Case No 5630 according to the allotment made by M.F. Coronel Esq. appointed Sole Refferee in Decree of Partition. Surveyed March A.D 1887 by J.A. Bernal Sur. and C.E." CASE-CAPTION SPELLING CORRECTED, HUMAN-CONFIRMED (v1.37 addendum): earlier readings of this reference (including this entry's own opening line, and the county PDF copy) rendered the Yorba heir's given name "Eralinda"; the requester's high-resolution color photograph of the original reads "Erolinda," and the requester has directly confirmed "Erolinda C. de Yorba" against

the physical document - the highest tier of confirmation this note records. “Eralinda” is retired as a probable misread rather than a genuine third spelling variant. REFEREE NAME HUMAN-CONFIRMED: “M.F. Coronel, Esq.” - directly confirmed by the requester against the physical document, closing out the “M.F. Coronel”/“W.H. Coronel”/“Wm. H. Courner” divergence from Section 9 in favor of this note’s own original reading. SURVEYOR SURNAME ON THE ORIGINAL ARTIFACT, HUMAN-CONFIRMED: “J.A. Bernal” - the requester has directly confirmed this reading against two different photographs of the original hand-drawn color volume, the highest tier of confirmation this note records. INDEPENDENT SECOND VISUAL CONFIRMATION (v1.47): the requester subsequently examined a further high-resolution scan of the original document at the Norwalk facility, in a separate session from the v1.37 confirmation above, and again read the surveyor’s surname as “J.A. Bernal” directly from the physical artifact - “Surveyed March A.D 1887 by J.A. Bernal Sur. and C.E.” This is a third photograph and a second, independent confirming act by the requester, distinct in time from the two photographs already cited, and is recorded as strengthening rather than merely repeating the existing human-confirmed tier: this reading has now withstood two separate examination sessions rather than one. This is not treated as resolving the surname question outright, only as settling what the original artifact itself says, per the source-hierarchy distinction adopted earlier in this entry: this note’s own reading of the county’s separate monochrome PDF derivative (the version this entry was originally sourced to) continues to read “Bernol,” unconfirmed by the requester and not re-examined against the physical county copy. The precise, correction-forward state of this long-open item (since v0.20) is therefore: the original reads “Bernal,” human-confirmed across two independent sessions; the county’s own recorded copy reads, on this note’s own examination only, “Bernol” - a documented artifact-vs-copy divergence, the same phenomenon this note has tracked at length for M.R. 3-204-209 (Section 6), now confirmed rather than merely suspected for a second, independent instrument family. RECORDING ENDORSEMENT, now fully legible from a high-resolution color crop: “A full, true and correct copy of the original recorded June 4, 1887 at 8 min. past 1 P.M. at request of Agustin Cota. Frank A. Gibson, County Recorder. By George Bugbee, Deputy” - the deputy’s surname CONFIRMED by the requester directly, after three independent attempts at this one word (by this note twice and by outside review once) had each differed (“Bugbee”/“Bughall”/“Buzwell”/“Douglas”); recorded here as the requester’s own confirmation, not a fourth AI reading. SOURCE HIERARCHY CLARIFIED per outside review’s useful distinction, adopted: this note now distinguishes the primary physical artifact (the hand-drawn color map the requester personally examined and photographed) from the recorded/reproduced representation (the county’s monochrome MR017-077/078/079 PDFs) - both are Tier 1, but they are not interchangeable, and a reading from one should not be silently treated as confirming or correcting a reading from the other without saying which is which. LOTS 1-3 CONTENT, new to this reference: Lot 1 shows Agustin Cota’s main allotment (150.205 acres), bounded by Ballona Creek, Benita Talamantes, and Bernardino Machado, with a small inset naming Francisco Cota, Maria C. de Valdez, and Ramona C. de Olivera at 100.14 acres each, an “adobe H[ouse]” marked, and several “Old Partition Stake” annotations. Lots 2 and 3 name Susana M. de Bernardo and Agustin Cota again along Bay Street, Plaza Street, Mill Street, and Flower Street, plus an “Esperanza C[ota] de Lopez, 9.00 acres” allotment and a “Ballona Ranch Boundary” label, bordering Jose Juan Machado and Candelaria Machado. LOT 4 CONTENT: a “Heirs of Ygnacio Machado” panel naming Erolinda C. de Yorba (9.9222 acres), Manuela C. de Figueroa (9.1289 acres), Felizarda Cota (9.1289 acres), Francisco Cota (830 acres [figure as read; unusually large relative to

neighboring parcels and not independently checked]), Agustin Cota (7,730 [sic - likely 7.7303, a transcription/OCR artifact] acres), and Maria C. de Valdez (3.4438 acres), with Magdalena Cota (9.1289 acres) and Ramona C. de Olivera (6.0846 acres) below, all bounded by Domingo Machado and Jose Juan Machado, and featuring the “Lake dry in summer time” hydrological feature already noted at former Reference 74’s original entry (now consolidated here at Reference 53) - confirmed present on both the color original and the monochrome county copy, i.e. an integral part of the recorded map, not a photographic or digital artifact. GENEALOGICAL OVERLAP still flagged, not investigated: Susana M. de Bernardo’s appearance here as a Case No. 5630 heir alongside her independent appearance as a Case No. 2722 Machado co-owner (Section 3a, Reference 70) remains unexplained. A second instance of the same kind, also flagged rather than resolved (v1.39): Lot 1’s own boundary calls name “Bernardino Machado” adjoining Agustin Cota’s parcel - a name matching one of the fourteen Case No. 2722 co-owners (Reference 70), but presumed rather than confirmed to be the same individual; proximity and period are suggestive, not dispositive. CADASTRAL CONTINUITY WITH THE EARLIER PARTITION FRAMEWORK, NOTED (v1.39): this reference’s own boundary lines repeatedly reference “Old Partition Stake” markers (Lots 1, 3, 4, and 5 all carry this annotation) - unambiguous evidence that the 1887 survey was tied directly to physical monuments left by the earlier partition(s), not surveyed independently of them. This is the evidentiary basis for the Roadmap’s revised characterization of Case No. 5630 (v1.39): a legally distinct proceeding for separate property, but not cadastrally isolated from the 1868/1875-76 framework - a more precise claim than “unrelated in scope,” and one this note can actually support from the stake annotations themselves, independent of whether any specific named individual (such as the Bernardino Machado question above) turns out to be the same person across cases. CHRONOLOGICAL THREAD, adopted from outside review as a useful framing: this reference’s own recording date (June 4, 1887) sits between the 1875-76 Hansen partition (References 55/69/70) and the 1905 Playa del Rey townsite material (Section 6, still deferred) - a 1876-to-1887-to-1905 chronological sequence worth keeping explicit where these instruments are discussed together, without merging their distinct subject matter.

[54] NEW (v0.20). ChatGPT, independent review pass reading the same photograph of the MR017-077.pdf title block (Reference 53). User-supplied document; secondary review, not itself a primary source - agreed with this note’s own reading on all text except the surveyor’s surname, and raised (without resolving) the possibility of a cut-off second surveyor name; this note’s own direct examination of the image found no evidence of a cut-off and treats the second-surveyor question as resolved (Section 6, Section 9).

[55] NEW (v0.21). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, 1868 partition map (‘Courtney Map,’ image filename Rancho_la_Ballona_Courtney_Map_Los_Angeles_Court_Records_00965), showing the Report of the Survey of Partition, Young v. Machado, Case No. 965, referees J.J. Warner, H. Thomas, and E.H. Boyd, with its own List of Partition table. Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 3-4, 6 for the referee names, the four-class table headers, high-confidence acreage figures, the December 14, 1867 referee-appointment date, and the May 1868 certification. Re-examined at higher resolution (v1.9, a user-supplied crop of the List of Partition table specifically), correcting a share-count misreading and adding the surveyors’ names (G. Hansen, L. Seebold); v1.9 also read the case caption’s given name as “Ignacio,”

a reading CORRECTED at v1.18 to unresolved between “Ignacio” and “Ygnacio” - see Section 3. Re-examined again (v1.12, a fresh, independently-purchased high- resolution Huntington crop of the full title block, distinct from the v0.21/v1.9 photographs): confirms magnetic variation “Var. 14°15’E” and “Scale of 1 inch to 20 ch.s”; confirms the December 14, 1867 appointment date and the undated-by-day “Los Angeles, May 1868” certification as unambiguous in the primary document’s own hand; identifies the certification’s two signatures as E.H. Boyd and J.J. Warner (H. Thomas did not countersign); and clarifies that the title block’s “13919.90 acres” is explicitly attributed, in the document’s own sentence structure, to the 1858 Hancock survey rather than to the 1868 partition survey itself. IDENTIFIER CORRECTED (v1.24): this map (Case No. 965) is “C.F. 16” in the Los Angeles Superior/District Court’s own master map register - see Reference 73. This corrects Reference 70’s v1.21 entry, which had wrongly stated that C.F. 16 belonged to the 1876 map instead.

[56] NEW (v0.21). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, 1876 Hansen/Solano map (CSLA-11, Rancho La Ballona), showing the subdivision of the Estate of Agustin Machado’s allotment among named heirs pursuant to Case No. 2722, with its own on-sheet case-number citation and an April 12, 1876 certification. CORRECTED (v1.15): this entry previously stated the certification was signed by E.H. Boyd; this was wrong. Fresh crops of the same 1876 map (References 69-70, v1.15) show the certification reads “I the undersigned referee, appointed to make partition in the above suit, hereby certify this to be the map referred in my report of partition of this date. Los Angeles April 12th 1876,” signed by Geo. Hansen alone - consistent with the title block’s own statement that the partition was made “by Geo. Hansen sole referee of partition appointed by the decree of said District Court of October 11th 1875.” Case No. 2722 (Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al.) used a single referee, unlike Case No. 965’s three-referee panel (Warner, Thomas, Boyd, Reference 55); the earlier entry appears to have conflated the two proceedings’ certifications. Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 3, 3a for the direct case-number self-citation and certification date. FULL-SHEET VIEW ADDED (v1.30): the requester supplied a full composite view of this map (reduced for printing to 11x17), the first full-sheet view of CSLA-11 in this note’s record rather than individual crops. Structure confirmed consistent with this note’s existing understanding: title block, full Table of Partition, and case citation all match. NEW DATA POINT, dune/lagoon convention comparison (see Reference 70 for the ongoing comparison with References 69-70): at the same location examined at v1.28-29 (near survey points 23-24), CSLA-11 renders the dune/lagoon features as dotted or stippled outline ovals - a third rendering, worth comparing carefully to the already-documented beaded loop-chains on Reference 69 (C.F. 64) and the continuous hachured loop plus stippled ovals on Reference 70 (M.R. 3-204-209). This note’s tentative visual impression is that CSLA-11’s convention is closer to Reference 70’s stippled-oval component than to Reference 69’s beaded-loop style, but this is stated as a tentative reading from a whole-sheet scan reduced for printing, at lower resolution than the targeted crops used in the v1.28-29 comparison, not a confirmed match - it should be checked against a full-resolution CSLA-11 image before being treated as settled. NEW LEAD, UNCONFIRMED: the requester reports that LMU staff have suggested CSLA-11 may be the original instrument, or one of the originals, among the now-multiple known copies of this document family - but LMU has not yet been able to supply a full-resolution copy to verify this. This is logged as a lead, not a finding: it would be a significant development if confirmed (directly bearing on the Section 6 open item asking which known copy, if any, is the original), but this note has no

independent basis yet to evaluate it beyond LMU's own suggestion, relayed secondhand. Treat as unconfirmed until a full-resolution CSLA-11 image and, ideally, LMU's own reasoning for the claim can be examined directly. MAJOR ADDITION (v1.31): the requester supplied a high-resolution color photograph of the physical CSLA-11 sheet itself (a close crop of the strip-parcel acreage listing and the dune/watercourse feature near the top). Two findings, of different evidentiary weight, follow from it.

First, physical characteristics: unlike every other copy in this document family examined so far (photostatic or blueprint-style reproductions on paper), this image shows a woven-fabric (linen) support, visible foxing and age-toning consistent with an object of this age, and a hand-applied blue wash or ink for the watercourse feature, labeled "Playa" in the same blue. This is materially more consistent with an original period tracing than with a later paper copy, and lends real, though not yet conclusive, support to the v1.30 LMU lead that CSLA-11 may be the original instrument. It remains a lead, not a confirmed finding - physical characteristics consistent with an original are suggestive, not dispositive, absent direct archival/conservation assessment - but it is now supported by more than a relayed institutional opinion.

Second, and independently checkable: this crop shows a dotted-outline oval at the top of the dune/watercourse feature, in blue, confirming at close range the convention tentatively identified from the lower- resolution full-sheet view at v1.30.

Third, a numeric comparison against this note's own prior transcription of strip-parcel acreages (see Reference 72, where these figures were described as "already established… digit for digit"): of thirteen figures on this crop, seven match this note's prior transcription exactly (Dolores Machado, Susana M. Bernardo, Candelaria Machado, Bernardino Machado, Jose Juan Machado, Jose de la Luz Machado, and the 44.17-acre Francisco/Dolores total), and five differ, in some cases by more than a trailing digit: Francisco Machado (26.14355 here versus 26.14365 previously recorded), Ascencion Machado (26.23592 versus 26.29598 - a substantial difference, not a rounding matter), Juan Machado (26.2384 versus 26.2884), Andres Machado (26.32910 versus 26.38910), and Vicenta M. de Lugo (26.36792 versus 26.36793, a single-digit difference plausibly within reading precision). A thirteenth figure, Martina M. de Cota (26.13923), was not previously recorded by name in this note's comparison list at all. CAUTION, stated plainly: this note cannot yet say which reading is correct, or whether "correct" is even the right frame - the prior transcription was itself drawn from a different copy in this same multiple-copies problem, not from a presumptively authoritative source, and the differences found here are as likely to reflect genuine variation between physical copies as an error in either transcription. This finding is significant less for resolving any single figure and more for what it implies about Reference 72's claim that RW-9 through RW-11's acreages matched this note's figures "digit for digit": that comparison was made against one copy's figures, and this note now has direct evidence that at least one other copy (CSLA-11) records some of the same allotments differently. Reference 72 is not thereby shown to be wrong about what it actually compared - it accurately reported a match against the figures it had - but its finding should be read as "matched the copy this note had transcribed," not as "matched the authoritative figures for these allotments," since this note is no longer confident such a single authoritative set of figures can be assumed without identifying which copy, if any, is primary.

Fourth, a smaller but useful confirming observation (v1.32): a targeted crop of CSLA-11's own title block, supplied by the requester with the lagoon region of interest, confirms the same dual case-number citation already established for References 56/69/70 generally - "No. 965" cited as background for the original 1868 Young v. Machado decree that first allotted this land to Agustin Machado's heirs, and Case No. 2722 (Geo. Hansen, October 11th 1875) as the actual subject of this 1876 partition map. This note's own initial reading of this specific crop misread the case number as "966"; the requester confirmed it reads "965," consistent with every other citation of this case throughout this note - recorded here as a caught misreading, not a discrepancy, per this note's standing practice of correcting itself in place rather than silently. Taken together with the v1.28-31 findings, a pattern is worth naming: the boilerplate text of this document family - case numbers, the December 1868 and October 1875 dates, Hansen's name and title - transcribes consistently across every copy examined so far, while the hand-drawn content (the dune/lagoon feature, the strip-parcel acreage figures) does not. This is consistent with, though does not prove, a plausible explanation for how these copies came to diverge: clerks re-transcribing this document copied its fixed legal language carefully and exactly, while redrawing its map details and re-entering its figures with more individual variation - the kind of asymmetry unsurprising in manual, pre-reprographic transcription, where copying words is a more mechanical task than copying a drawing or a column of numbers.

[57] NEW (v0.21). This office's Ballona Creek Terminus Report (v5.72, published 2026-03-01, CC0 1.0 Universal), citing 'Courtney 1867-68 (Case No. 965)' for the finding that the rancho's interior was irrigable, not estuarine. Archive.org: https://archive.org/details/ballona-creek-terminus-report-ia . Flagged in Section 6 as a likely, not yet confirmed, cross-reference to the same primary map as Reference 55. LICENSE CORRECTED (v1.45), two- independent-reading confirmed: Perplexity Computer's first-round report that the archive.org listing's license field reads CC0 1.0 Universal, not CC BY 4.0 as this entry previously stated, is confirmed by a second, independent pull of the item's own metadata API at v1.45 (`licenseurl: https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/`, no separate CC BY field set) - an exact match to the first-round reading and, per this note's standing two-independent-reading threshold, now adopted. This entry's own citation is corrected above from CC BY 4.0 to CC0 1.0 Universal accordingly. This is a correction to this note's own prior citation of another, separately-published document's license, not a statement about this memorandum's own licensing, which remains a decision reserved for later per the v1.17 Version block entry.

[58] NEW (v0.22). OAC finding aid, 'Los Angeles area court records, 1850-1911,' https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/c8n58stf/ - describes the actual surviving Los Angeles court-records collection, distinguishing 1st/17th District Court civil cases (#1-5431, 1850-1879) from a separate Superior Court civil case series (#2-75782, 1880-1910). Cited in Section 6 to correct a claim that District Court case numbers simply carried forward into the Superior Court, and to explain why Case Nos. 965 and 2722 (District Court-era) and Case No. 5630 (Superior Court-era) sit in different numbering series despite all three concerning Rancho La Ballona.

[59] NEW (v0.22). A court-case cross-reference index reviewed by a research pass (user-supplied document; specific source not independently verified by this note), containing entries for Cases No. 965, 2722, and 5630 and a new unverified lead (Case No. 20244, Estate of Ascencion Machado). Four specific

details this index (or the pass reviewing it) produced for Case No. 5630 did not hold up against this note's own photographed primary source and were retracted - see Section 6 and Section 9 for the full account and the resulting index-handling rule. Cited only for the existence and rough filing context of the cases it lists, per that rule, never for specific names, dates, or figures.

[60] NEW (v1.5). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, December 14, 1868 Machado partition map. CORRECTION (v1.11): previously filed under the working label "LMU Fritz Burns Papers, CSLA collection, 'CSLA-11'"; this attribution is incorrect and has been withdrawn. LMU's own finding aid confirms CSLA-11 is a single-item collection consisting solely of the 1876 Hansen/Solano map (Reference 56), and the Fritz Burns Papers are a distinct collection (CSLA-4, related CSLA-2) covering Fritz Burns's 20th-century real-estate career, unconnected to the Machado partition proceedings. This document's actual LMU/CSLA collection and catalog number, if any, are not yet established; treat as an unattributed user photograph pending archival confirmation. Shows thirteen named Machado heirs' individual strip allotments (approximately 26.1-26.4 acres each) along a shared N.61°E bearing, and the separate "Ramona S. de Machado, 341.85095 acres" allotment. Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 3 for direct corroboration of long, narrow strip-parcel geometry. NOTE (v1.8): this is a distinct physical document from the "Courtney Map" (Reference 55) - a graphical partition plat, not the Report of Survey / List of Partition table - and its inclusion of a "Ramona S. de Machado" allotment does not conflict with the v0.21 correction that the Courtney Map's own table does not list one; the two documents record different things. Both are dated within 1868 and appear to stem from the same Case No. 965 proceeding, but this has not been independently confirmed against the archive's own cataloging of either sheet.

[61] NEW (v1.5). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, Los Angeles County Assessor Map Book sheet (Book 139; M.B. 13-131; M.B. 16-38), undated but bearing 20th-century tract overlays (Venice City Boundary, Recreation Gun Clubs Tract, Pradera Tract) placing it no earlier than c. 1905. A later composite re-plat of the same Machado and Talamantes strip allotments, on-sheet self-citing "CASE 2722" against the "Ramona S. de Machado, 341.85 Ac. Allot." parcel. Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 3 for independent corroboration of strip-parcel persistence after 1868 and of Case No. 2722's identification; also the source of an open item on an additional Talamantes/Valenzuela allotment group not yet reconciled with the Machado partition.

[62] NEW (v1.6). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, Los Angeles County Assessor Old Map Books, "Tract No. 1100" composite re-plat sheet (Del Rey Blvd./Panama St. area; image file IMAG0059), sourced by the requester directly from the Los Angeles County Assessor's Old Map Books archive, 222 North Hill Street, Room 103. On-sheet self-citing "CASE 2722" and successive-revision pointers "For 1915 see Book 332" and "For 1918 see Book 273." Shows the Ramona S. de Machado allotment with additional acreage figures (246.03, 93.96 ac.) alongside the already-documented 341.85, and a smaller-allotment cluster for several named Machado heirs consistent with a later further-subdivision generation. Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 3 for successive re-plat evidence and open items on later subdivision of the Ramona S. de Machado and Machado-heir allotments.

[63] NEW (v1.6). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, Los Angeles County Assessor Old Map Books, detail sheet covering the Machado-heir strip allotments and the “Case 5630” annotation (image file IMAG0062), same archive and source as Reference 62. Independently reproduces the deduction pattern and case annotation already RESOLVED at v0.19-v0.20 (Section 6); also itemizes the 341.85-acre Ramona S. de Machado allotment’s later reductions by category (Playa del Rey, R.R., Shop Grounds, Road). Tier 1 primary source, dense and partially overlapping handwriting; specific running figures not yet fully reconciled. Cited in Section 3 and Section 6.

[64] NEW (v1.6). User-supplied full-resolution photograph, Los Angeles County Assessor Old Map Books, a further detail sheet closely related to Reference 63, covering the same Machado-heir strip allotments and Ramona S. de Machado reduction figures (image file IMAG0068), same archive and source as Reference 62. Tier 1 primary source. Cited alongside Reference 63 as a companion reading of the same underlying figures.

[65] NEW (v1.7). Find a Grave memorial no. 67756347, “Ramona Sepulveda Machado (1808-1891),” https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/67756347/ramona-machado - reproduces contemporary February 1891 death notices from the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Herald describing her as “the wife of Don Agustin Machado” and giving her age at death as 82. A reproduction of period newspaper accounts, the same source type already treated as Tier 1 elsewhere in this note (Los Angeles Star 1872, Los Angeles Herald 1886), though this note has not yet directly viewed the original 1891 newspaper pages themselves. Cited in Section 3 to correct a v1.6 error misidentifying Ramona S. de Machado as Agustin Machado’s daughter rather than his second wife.

[66] NEW (v1.7). Find a Grave memorial no. 100663380, “Agustin Machado (1794-1865),” https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/100663380 - identifies Ramona Sepulveda de Machado as his widow, and separately, memorial no. 67253012, “Dolores Machado (1835-1906),” identifies Dolores as the son of Agustin Machado “and his second wife, Maria Ramona Sepulveda y Serrano,” establishing Maria Petra Buelna as Agustin’s first wife (died in childbirth, 1826) and Ramona Sepulveda as his second wife (married February 27, 1827). Cited in Section 3 alongside Reference 65.

[67] NEW (v1.7). Huntington Library digital catalog entry, “Dona Ramona Machado, wife of Agustin Machado,” https://www.huntington.org/collections/lib-p15150coll2-8075 , and an independently-captioned Calisphere/USC Title Insurance and Trust Photography Collection record of the same period portrait, https://calisphere.org/item/57ca83d8d516619dc887c60168b66c58/ - both institutional catalog descriptions independently identifying Ramona as Agustin Machado’s wife. Cited in Section 3 alongside References 65-66.

[68] NEW (v1.13). User-supplied full-resolution photographs (two crops: “End of Ballona Creek Survey - Station 83” and “Terminus of Ballona Creek,” image filenames Richard_Courtney_Collection_OS_f01_map3_001_*), showing the Talamantes/Sanford/Machado-heirs allotment area of a Los Angeles County Assessor Map Book sheet, closely related to and possibly the same instrument as Reference 61. Shows a stationed watercourse- following boundary (numbered stations 78 through 83) terminating at station 83, where the linework transitions from a single stationed

channel into a fan of converging strip-allotment boundaries. Tier 1 primary source. Cited in Section 3/6 for the end of the surveyed watercourse at station 83 and the “G. Addison Sanford” allotment name. NOTE: neither crop labels the watercourse “Ballona Creek” in its own hand; that identification rests on the source filenames and the sheet’s known subject matter, not on an on-sheet label - see the corresponding Section 6 open item. RESOLVED (v1.14): the “Richard Courtney Collection” filename attribution is confirmed against the Huntington’s own published research guide - a former LA Superior Court archives employee, Richard Courtney, gifted court-history material to the Huntington in 1983, cataloged as the Richard Courtney papers and recognized by library staff as supplementing the Los Angeles Area Court Records (LAACR) collection when LAACR was transferred to the Huntington (researchguides.huntington.org/laacr/additional). This confirms “Courtney Map” throughout this note traces to a real, institutionally- held collection specifically supplementing the same court-record series that includes Case Nos. 965, 2722, and 5630 - resolving, with high confidence though not absolute certainty, the standing open item (Section 4 of the TARC handoff record) as to whether “Courtney Map” and “Courtney 1867-68” refer to the same or a related source. Separately, this note’s own internal call-number breakdown (OS = Oversize, f01 = Folder 1, map3 = third map in that folder) was not independently verifiable against a public finding aid and is logged as plausible archival convention, not confirmed. A separate Huntington Imaging Services order (Transaction 338388, O/S Folder 1, Map 3) was placed and received by the requester under this same collection; the requester confirmed the delivered scan matches this reference’s existing material (the Station 83 crops above), not a distinct item. An earlier working description of that same order as a “Courtney Partition Map, Case No. 2722, Shelf I-4, fldr. 3” did not match the delivered item’s own description and is not adopted; whether a separate Case 2722 map exists under that shelf/folder locator remains unresolved and is not currently being pursued. SUPERSEDED IN PART (v1.15): the “Ballona Creek” labeling question flagged above is now resolved - see References 69-70.

[69] NEW (v1.15). User-supplied full-resolution photographs (six crops, filename prefix CF0064, plus one titled “CF0064-5_Terminus_of_Ballona_Creek_1876”), from a source labeled “C.F. 64,” showing the same 1876 Hansen/Solano partition map as Reference 56 (Case No. 2722, Ramona S. de Machado vs. Domingo Machado et al., certified by Geo. Hansen, sole referee, April 12, 1876) at full extent across multiple sheet sections, plus its title/index sheet. Tier 1 primary source. Significance: the watercourse is labeled “Ballona Creek” directly, on the face of the map, at the top of the sheet near the same “83” corner point shared with the Los Angeles County Assessor sheet (Reference 68) - the first instance in this note’s record of an on-sheet, primary-source label naming the watercourse, rather than an inference from a filename or the sheet’s known subject [CORRECTED v1.33: previously described as “in the surveyor’s own hand.” The sheet establishes Alfred Solano as assistant surveyor and draughtsman and Geo. Hansen as certifying referee in their respective stated roles; it does not by itself establish whose hand produced this specific label, and that attribution is withdrawn as unsupported - see Reference 70]. The dotted creek line is shown continuing southwest past station 83, along the western edge of the “Ramona S. de Machado, 341.85095 acres” allotment, to a coastline labeled “OCEAN” on the compiled title/index sheet. Cited in Section 3/6, superseding in part the v1.13-v1.14 open item on Ballona Creek’s on-sheet identification. CAUTION: the title/index sheet’s “OCEAN” label is a small-scale compilation drawing, not a detailed hydrological rendering: it should not, by itself, be read as evidence that the

surveyed creek entered open Pacific water directly, as distinct from passing through the tidal/lagoon system already documented in Section 7 and the Terminus Report (v5.72) before reaching the coastline the rancho's own boundary is drawn against. This map confirms the creek's named course and general direction; it does not by itself revisit the existing, separately-sourced findings on the nature of the coastal connection.

[70] NEW (v1.15). User-supplied full-resolution photographs (six crops, filename MR003-204 through MR003-209), the recorded county copy of the same 1876 Hansen/Solano map, Los Angeles County Recorder's Book No. 3, Miscellaneous Maps, pages 204-209 [CORRECTED v1.33; cited v1.15-v1.32 as "Miscellaneous Records" - see the v1.33 Section 9 entry for the correction and its basis], recorded April 29, 1876 at 9 a.m. at the request of F.H. Howard, attorney for plaintiffs, County Recorder Chas. B. Neild. The title sheet cross-references "C.F. 64" directly ("For copy of this map see C.F. 64"), formally linking this reference to Reference 69 in the record's own hand - both are independently obtained copies of the same instrument. Tier 1 primary source (official recorded copy, arguably stronger provenance than an unrecorded working copy). Confirms "Ballona Creek" labeled a second, independent time (near the Sanford/Aguilar/Machado-heir parcels, upstream of the station 83 area) and the same coastal terminus shown on Reference 69. Two notations on this recorded copy - "FOR BALLONA CREEK CHANNEL SEE C.S. 8194" and "For Ballona Creek see C.S. 8194 Sht. 1 and 2" - pointed to a distinct Los Angeles County Surveyor record specifically for the creek channel itself, separate from this partition map. LOCATED (v1.19): see Reference 71. CLARIFIED (v1.21, requester's own in-person research at the Los Angeles County Recorder's Map Room, Norwalk, and direct consultation with LADPW Land Records staff, Alhambra): Book 3, Miscellaneous Maps, pages 204-209 (M.R. 3-204-209, this reference) [CORRECTED v1.33; recap of the v1.21 finding originally read "Miscellaneous Records" - see the v1.33 Section 9 entry] is the underlying recorded map of record, physically held at the County Recorder's office in Norwalk, and "C.F. 64" annotates this same instrument. CORRECTED (v1.24): this entry originally went on to state that a second label, "C.F. 16," also annotates this same M.R. 3-204-209 instrument - i.e., that C.F. 16 and C.F. 64 were two administrative tags for one document. This was wrong. The requester subsequently obtained photographs of the Los Angeles Superior/District Court's own master map register (Reference 73) - the court's internal index of maps filed by case number, not a secondary finding aid - which shows unambiguously that "16" and "64" are two different entries in that register, assigned to two different cases: entry 16 is Case No. 965 (Young v. Machado, the 1868 partition, Reference 55), and entry 64 is Case No. 2722 (Machado v. Machado, the 1876 partition, this reference and Reference 69). C.F. 16 therefore belongs to Reference 55, not to this reference - see Reference 55 and Reference 73 for the correction in full, and Section 9 for how this was caught and what it means for the LADPW-sourced claim this entry previously relied on. Per LADPW Land Records staff, this same underlying map is genuinely referenced under multiple identifiers across different indexing systems - the confusion this note has documented at several points (the CSLA-11 misattribution at Ref. 60/v1.11-1.20, the unconfirmed "C.F. 54" claim at Reference 72/v1.20) is not a research artifact but a real, acknowledged characteristic of how this document family has been filed and re-filed over time; that general point stands independent of the specific C.F. 16/C.F. 64 error corrected above. FURTHER CONFIRMED IN PERSON (v1.22): the requester photographed the bound volume directly at the Recorder's Map Room, Norwalk (four images, page 204 title block and the page 206/207-area Table of Partition). The Table of Partition figures

photographed in person match this note's existing transcription exactly (Ramona S. de Machado 1/2, 230.6910/246.0306/1271.8881/341.8509, totaling 2090.4606; grand total across all shares, 4237.0065 - consistent throughout), confirming the prior download-based transcription against the original bound volume itself rather than merely a supplied copy. NEW DATA POINT: the title block's own magnetic variation for this 1876 map reads "Var. 14°30' E" - distinct from and not to be confused with Reference 55/68's separately-established "Var. 14°15'E" for the 1868 Courtney Map. These are two different surveys (1858-derived 1868 partition vs. 1875-76 heir subdivision) and are not expected to share a variation figure; no discrepancy exists. CONFIRMED (v1.23, second in-person photograph set, sharper resolution): "Var. 14°30' E" reads unambiguously; this figure is now settled rather than merely recorded. NEW EVIDENCE, Ygnacio/Ignacio question (Section 3): this 1876 map's own preamble, in Alfred Solano's hand, restates the original Case No. 965 caption for background - "which in the suit of John D Young et al vs. Ygnacio Machado et al N° 965." UPGRADED (v1.23, same sharper photograph set): the initial letter's loop and descender are now clearly legible as a capital "Y," and this note reads this citation with confidence, not merely reasonable confidence, as "Ygnacio." This still does not resolve what the 1868 map's own caption reads (a separate document, separately still ambiguous per the v1.18 correction), since this is a different scribe's later citation of the same case rather than the original instrument - but it is now a clearly- read, independent data point in the ongoing spelling-variance picture, consistent with this note's existing editorial position that period variance is the finding, not an error to resolve toward one form. MAJOR CAVEAT (v1.27): the requester has since identified at least three non-identical manually-transcribed copies filed under the "M.R. 3-204-209" citation - differing in the drawing of the lagoon, the dune and hillside contours, the notation of Ballona Creek's path, and the handwriting - confirmed by LADPW Land Records staff as products of manual transcription, consistent with the pre-reprographic era in which they were made (no mechanical copying was available; an official "copy" meant a clerk or draftsman re-drew the map by hand). This note's citations above (the "Var. 14°30' E" reading, the "Ygnacio" reading, the Table of Partition figures) derive from photographs supplied at v1.15, re-confirmed in person at v1.22-23; which of the (at least) three known copies those photographs depict, relative to the other two, has not yet been established. These specific readings are not withdrawn - they remain accurate transcriptions of the copy actually photographed - but they should not be assumed to hold for every copy filed under this citation, and this reference should not be read as describing a single, uniform "M.R. 3-204-209" document. Separately noted: the 1902 Playa del Rey townsite map (see Section 6, deferred to a future companion piece) appears to have been drawn using its own underlying M.R. 3-204-209-type reference, which is different again from the three copies described here - a fourth apparent variant, not yet examined in detail. See the Section 6 open item and the TARC research directive (Purpose and status, point 6) for how this note is treating the multiple-copies problem going forward. CONFIRMED, WITH SPECIFICS (v1.28): the requester supplied two targeted crops for direct comparison - one from this reference (the recorded copy, page "+3+206") and one from Reference 69 (the C.F. 64 title/index sheet, box "6") - and this note's own direct visual inspection confirms a real difference between them, not merely handwriting or drafting style. CORRECTED (v1.29, higher-resolution crops of the same two sheets): the v1.28 description ("two separate, simple closed shapes" on this reference versus "an elaborate chain of multiple small connected loops" on Reference 69) understated what a clearer view actually shows, and is replaced with the following. Both sheets depict a comparable number of features in comparable positions - one larger

shape near the top of the dune band, one or two smaller oval features below it, and denser texture near the shoreline point (survey points 23-24) - which is consistent with both depicting the same underlying real features. What differs is the drafting convention used to render them, not obviously the count or placement of the features themselves. On Reference 69 (C.F. 64), the features are drawn as chains of small beaded loops - paired oval shapes with a stitched, tick-marked border, joined into figure-eight forms - and the texture near the shoreline point is loose, cursive scribble-curls. On this reference (M.R. 3-204-209, page 206), the same approximate features are drawn as a single continuous hatched loop (dense parallel dune-hachure lines, not beading) plus separate small stippled or dotted ovals below it, and the texture near the shoreline point is standard radiating dune-hachure marks, not scribble-curls. This is a real difference in graphic convention between two hands, and remains worth documenting precisely - but it is better read, on this clearer evidence, as two clerks' differing personal conventions for depicting the same dune/wetland detail, not as evidence that the two sheets disagree about what features exist or where they are located. This is significant beyond the general multiple-copies problem logged at v1.27: References 69 and 70 are not obscure, uncatalogued variants - they are the two sources this note has used throughout as if interchangeable copies of one instrument, on the strength of the recorded copy's own cross-reference ("For copy of this map see C.F. 64"). That cross- reference establishes they are copies of the same underlying survey and partition; it does not establish that every graphical feature on both was transcribed identically, and this dune/lagoon comparison shows at least one feature where the rendering convention was not - though, per the v1.29 correction above, the underlying content each convention represents now appears substantively consistent. CAUTION: this note's own comparison is based on the crops supplied, at the resolution supplied; a full side-by-side comparison of both complete sheets, ideally at the same scale and orientation, would still be the more rigorous confirmation of this reading. NOT AFFECTED: this specific difference is in the dune/lagoon hatching detail only; it does not touch the Table of Partition figures, the magnetic variation readings, or the Ygnacio citation already confirmed from this reference, which are text and numerals rather than the hand-drawn topographic hatching where this difference appears. FIRSTHAND ARCHIVAL PROVENANCE, MAJOR UPDATE (v1.33): the requester personally located, examined, and photographed the physical M.R. 3-204-209 paper record at the Los Angeles County Recorder's Norwalk facility (Room L001), after consultation with LADPW Land Records staff in Alhambra and two in-person retrieval visits. TERMINOLOGY CORRECTED: the physical volume is labeled on its spine "MISCELLANEOUS MAPS 2-3" (Books 2 and 3 bound together), not "Miscellaneous Records" as this entry and others have called it since v1.15 - see Section 9 for the correction and the document-wide sweep it prompted. PROVENANCE STRENGTHENED, stated precisely per the four-part structure this note is adopting going forward for this kind of claim: (a) DIRECTLY ESTABLISHED - the requester physically located, examined, and photographed this sheet in the bound Miscellaneous Maps 2-3 volume; (b) RESEARCH STATUS - this is the only original/source copy of this instrument presently known to the requester after the archival investigation to date; (c) STAFF-SOURCED FINDING - per LADPW Land Records staff (Alhambra, consulted in the course of this retrieval), M.R. 3-204-209 is the source/original paper record and the other known versions (References 56/69 and any others in this document family) were manually transcribed from it; (d) NOT ESTABLISHED - that no unknown original or contemporaneous duplicate survives elsewhere; this is not an independently completed archival census, and the staff statement is attributed testimony, not documentary confirmation from a written register or finding aid. TENSION FLAGGED, not resolved: the

v1.30-31 LMU-sourced lead held that CSLA-11 (Reference 56) “may be the original instrument, or one of the originals.” A LADPW staff statement that this Recorder-held sheet is the sole source from which other versions were transcribed sits in some tension with that - unless “original” is doing different work in the two claims (e.g., LMU’s staff meaning an early, high-fidelity official copy, versus LADPW’s meaning the recorded court instrument of record). Per this note’s own source-hierarchy rule, where two Tier 3-level institutional claims conflict and no Tier 1 source adjudicates between them, the conflict is recorded as genuinely open, not silently resolved by preferring the more recent claim. NEW PRIMARY DATA, Table of Partition by land class: the requester’s photograph of this table (distinct from the strip-frontage acreage figures discussed above and at Reference 72/v1.31) reproduces, digit for digit, the figures already cited in this entry from the v1.15/v1.22-23 photographs - Ramona S. de Machado 1/2 interest, 230.6910/246.0306/1271.8881/ 341.8509, total 2090.4606; full column totals across all fourteen shares plus Roads and Streets, 467.7290/494.6435/2582.5147/692.1193, grand total 4237.0065 - a clean confirmation of this specific table against the original bound volume, independent of the v1.22-23 in-person photography already cited. NEW PRIMARY DATA, referee certification: the sheet bears a certification, previously unrecorded in this note, reading in substance “I the undersigned referee appointed to make partition in the above suit hereby certify this to be the map referred [to] in my report of partition of this date. Los Angeles April 12th 1876. Geo. Hansen” - dated eight days before the April 19, 1876 filing endorsement already cited from this reference (A.W. Potts, Clerk, by deputy). NEW PRIMARY DATA, bounded parcel: a distinct, separately-bounded parcel labeled “Ramona S. de Machado, 805.35354 acres,” adjoining a “Rafael Machado” parcel along a course of N.57°E 101.82 chs, appears on the sheet; this figure is not a duplicate of any total already cited from this reference and appears to be one of several non-contiguous blocks comprising Ramona S. de Machado’s full 1/2 interest (2090.4606 acres per the Table of Partition) - not yet reconciled against the others, logged as an open item. FLAG, unresolved between reviewers: the clerk’s deputy name on the filing endorsement has been independently read as both “D.W. Maclellan” (this note’s working reading, re-confirmed against two further photographs at v1.33) and “D. W. McClellan” (an independent reviewer’s reading of the same endorsement); not resolved in v1.33. FLAG, tentative and unconfirmed: a higher-resolution photograph of the strip-frontage acreage fan diagram (the same table discussed at Reference 72/v1.31) was supplied at v1.33, and this note’s own tentative transcription of it does not clearly match either the figures cited as “established” at References 55/69/70 or the CSLA-11 figures at Reference 56/v1.31, for at least three of the same names (Ascencion, Juan, and Andres Machado). This is NOT adopted as a finding - the diagonal, unruled layout of this particular table makes name-to-figure pairing genuinely uncertain from a photograph, and this note’s own history (the v1.32 “966 vs. 965” near miss, the v1.31 decimal-point episode referenced in Purpose and status) counsels against recording a reading of this kind without the requester’s own direct confirmation of each pairing against the physical sheet. Logged as a next step, not as a fourth data point in the divergence comparison. STRIP-ACREAGE TABLE CONFIRMED (v1.34): the requester supplied a new, straight-on, horizontally-ruled photograph of this table, removing the diagonal-offset ambiguity that made the v1.33 reading tentative. CORRECTED, this note’s own error: the v1.33 reading was mis-paired by one row from “Vicenta M. de Lugo” onward - a direct instance of the pairing risk flagged at the time. The corrected table, independently re-transcribed by this note and separately by Perplexity Computer from the same photograph, with both transcriptions matching exactly: Francisco and Dolores Machado (combined) 44.17 acs.; Francisco Machado 26.14365; Dolores

Machado 26.2368; Susana M. Bernardo 26.16772; Martina M. de Cota 26.18928; Candelaria Machado 26.38410; Ascencion Machado 26.28598; Vicenta M. de Lugo 26.36793; Juan Machado 26.2884; Domingo Machado 26.35008; Bernardino Machado 26.4099; Jose Juan Machado 26.32959; Andres Machado 26.38910; Jose de la Luz Machado 26.30835 - the last of these captured for the first time in this note's record; every prior photograph cut this figure off. DIVERGENCE COMPARISON UPDATED, significant result: measured against this confirmed control reading, Juan Machado (26.2884) and Andres Machado (26.38910) match CSLA-11 (Reference 56/v1.31) exactly, while the "established" Reference 55/69/70 transcription differs from both (26.2384 and 26.32910 respectively). Given LADPW's account that CSLA-11 was transcribed from this Recorder sheet, this is the first instance in this note's investigation of direct evidence indicating *which* transcription drifted - on these two names, it is the "established" Reference 55/69/70 figure, not CSLA-11, that does not match the LADPW-identified source. This does not extend to Ascencion Machado, which remains a genuine three-way mismatch even against the confirmed control (established 26.23592; CSLA-11 26.29598; this reference 26.28598) - not resolved, and not assumed to resolve the same direction as the other two names. THREE-STAGE CHRONOLOGY, now fully documented from the sheet's own text: Geo. Hansen's certification, in his own stated role as "the undersigned referee appointed to make partition in the above suit," identifies this sheet as "the map referred [in/to - see below] my report of partition of this date," dated Los Angeles, April 12, 1876; the District Court's own filing endorsement (A.W. Potts, Clerk, by deputy) reads "Filed April 19th 1876"; and this reference's own opening citation already established the County Recorder's own act as "recorded April 29, 1876 at 9 a.m." These are three distinct acts by three distinct offices - referee's certification, court filing, county recording - eight and eighteen days apart respectively, and should not be collapsed into one event or date. MICRO- DISCREPANCY, not resolved: this note's transcription of the certification, cross-checked independently by ChatGPT against the same photograph, reads "the map referred in my report of partition" (no "to"); Perplexity Computer's independent transcription of the same photograph reads "referred to in my report of partition." Both readings are retained as possibilities; the word "to" is not treated as settled either present or absent. CLERK NAME, strengthened but not settled: this note's reading of the filing endorsement's deputy clerk name as "D.W. Maclellan" is now supported by a sharper photograph and by ChatGPT's independent transcription of the same crop; Perplexity Computer's independent transcription of the same crop continues to read "D. W. McClellan." This note records the reading as leaning toward "Maclellan" on the weight of two independent transcriptions plus the sharper image, while treating it as strengthened, not settled - direct examination of the physical sheet by the requester would close this cleanly. FULL SIX-PAGE SET REVIEWED (v1.36): the requester supplied the complete M.R. 3-204-209 set, pages 204-209, as a single PDF, closing the long-standing "full-sheet, consistent-scale photography" next step. MAJOR CORRECTION TO THIS NOTE'S OWN WORKING HYPOTHESIS: page 205 carries larger (~60-62 acre) named parcels alongside the familiar ~26-acre strip figures, which this note initially characterized as a possible "later re-platting layer" distinct from the 1876 partition. Independent review (ChatGPT) checked this against page 207's tract-by-tract arithmetic and found no discrepancy: the larger figures are individual numbered tract components (chiefly 3rd-Class tracts, the land class with by far the largest per-owner acreage in the Table of Partition) that sum exactly to the same class totals already on record, not a separate or later partition. This note's "later re-platting layer" characterization is WITHDRAWN, not merely qualified. The correct principle, per that review: differing acreage magnitude alone does not

mark a later layer; the content of an annotation does. Later layers on this sheet are real and are marked by superimposed deed/road/C.F./M.R. citations - see below - not by parcel size. Similarly WITHDRAWN: this note's speculative framing of the page-208 "Ramona S. de Machado, [9.955?] acres" figure as "possibly a remainder or right-of-way parcel." Independent review confirmed the figure as 86.9555 acres (this note's original digit transcription was wrong, not just its interpretation) and identified it as one of Ramona's own 1st-Class tract components in the page-207 table - an internal reconciliation, not a separate parcel requiring its own explanation. DEED/ORDER CITATIONS CORRECTED, this note's own prior digits superseded by independent re-transcription and this note's own follow-up crop of the same annotation: "For deed to Santa Monica Ave. through C. Machado 21.41 Acs. see D:29-114 D:7423-274" and "… and Fr. & Dol. Machado 32.92 Acs. See D:29-142 D:7487-199" and "par. deeded for Ballona Creek see D:28-145 O.R.515-388" (this note's working list had incorrectly rendered several of these digits; corrected here). LATER LAYERS CONFIRMED WITH SPECIFICS: the same annotation cluster records "Santa Monica St. changed to Polytechnic Ave. D:18-165 Ord.496," "[Poly]technic Ave. D:6389-8 D:19-266," and "Polytechnic Blvd. changed to Walgrove Ave. D:18-176 Ord.525" - independently dated by outside review to no earlier than November 1913 (Walgrove's own documented street-history transition). C.F. 78/M.R. 17-77-79 CITATION SETTLED: this note's own high-resolution crop of the annotation ("For partition of this parcel see C.F. 78 or M.R. 17-77-79") resolves a three-way reading disagreement among reviewers in favor of "17-77-79," independently corroborated by an LA City Bureau of Engineering land-base map (ZIMAS sheet 102B157) that cross-references "S C C 5630 C F 78 / M R 17-77/79" directly, and subsequently by the requester's own recovery of the C.F. 78 instrument itself, originally catalogued as Reference 74 and now consolidated into Reference 53 (v1.37) - see Reference 53 for that instrument's content. The "major open question" this passage originally raised - that instrument's relationship to Reference 53 - is RESOLVED (v1.37): they are the same physical map family; see Reference 53 for the consolidated account. STALE CROSS-REFERENCE CORRECTED (v1.44): this passage previously still pointed the reader to "Reference 74" and described the merge question as open after the document itself had already resolved it at v1.37 - flagged by outside review (ChatGPT) on its structural/internal-consistency pass and corrected here without altering the underlying finding, which was already correct elsewhere in the document. NOT ESTABLISHED: whether the March 1887 C.F. 78 partition touched any of the specific strips (Ascencion, Vicenta M. de Lugo, Juan, or Andres Machado) implicated in the strip-acreage divergence discussed above - this remains open, and this instrument should not be assumed to explain that divergence without directly checking what it redistributed (see Reference 53). RECORDING ENDORSEMENT, still unresolved: an independent attempt to read this reference's own page-209 recording endorsement from the six-page PDF produced a reading ("Recorded April 25, 1876 at 3:20 PM… F.M. Hunt") materially different from this reference's existing citation ("recorded April 29, 1876 at 9 a.m.… F.H. Howard"). This note's own direct, enhanced-contrast inspection of the same page favors the existing citation - "F H Howard" is legible with reasonable confidence, and nothing resembling "3:20" or "Hunt" is - but the scan is degraded enough that this is not treated as fully re-confirmed either. A second outside reviewer, independently, declined to confirm the existing citation from this scan at all, calling the image quality insufficient - the correct status is "not contradicted; insufficient image quality for independent full transcription," not "re-confirmed." A physical macro photograph of this endorsement remains a next step.

[71] NEW (v1.19). User-supplied full-resolution photographs (three sheets, filenames FM18194.pdf and C_S__8194.pdf, identical content supplied under both identifiers), Los Angeles County Flood Control District, “Right of Way Map of Ballona Creek from Santa Monica Airline to Playa del Rey,” J.W. Reagan, Chief Engineer, scale 1 inch = 200 feet, Map No. Pl. 48, Sheet 2 of 2 sheets. Identified as this note’s long-standing “C.S. 8194” open item (flagged at Reference 70, v1.15), located via the Los Angeles County Public Works land-records portal. The requester’s own account of the retrieval method - that County Surveyor (“C.S.”) numbers are sometimes indexed as “Filed Maps” under a “1”- prefixed number, i.e. C.S. 8194 as “FM 18194” - could not be independently verified against a documented LA County Public Works policy in this note’s own search; this reference’s identification does not rest on that theory. It rests instead on direct content match: this sheet’s named parcels and acreages (Jesus Talamantes 17.0 Ac.; G. Addison Sanford; Domingo, Bernardino, and Juan Machado; Susana M. de Bernardo; Candelaria, Ascencion, and Vicenta M. de Lugo) match the partition-era names already established in this note from References 55, 69, and 70, and the sheet carries its own direct cross-reference to “204 to 209 … Miscellaneous Records” - an exact match to Reference 70’s own Book 3, Miscellaneous Maps pp. 204-209 [FLAGGED v1.33: this 1920s Flood Control District sheet’s own quoted cross-reference uses the phrase “Miscellaneous Records,” where the physical volume photographed by the requester (Reference 70) is labeled “Miscellaneous Maps.” This is preserved as an accurate quotation of Reference 71’s own wording, not corrected to match Reference 70 - it may reflect this 1920s engineering office’s own informal usage, a genuine period naming inconsistency, or something not yet understood, and is logged as an open question rather than resolved]. Tier 1 primary source. CAUTION: this is a 1920s Los Angeles County Flood Control District engineering document establishing legal right-of-way for the channelized creek, not a restatement or re-survey of the 1858/1868-era natural creek course; it does not itself speak to Station 83’s hydrological significance or to the Terminus Report’s (v5.72) findings on the historic Hancock inner-bay debouchment, and should not be read as resolving either. NEW LEAD, not yet pursued: Sheet A2 carries a substantial docket for Superior Court Case No. 105740, a condemnation suit filed May 3, 1922, “L.A. Co. Flood Control Dist., Plaintiff, vs. Pac. Elec. R.R. Co. et al., Defendants,” with docket entries (pending, interlocutory judgment February 10, 1925, further pending entries into 1928) suggesting this is the eminent-domain proceeding through which the County acquired the engineered channel’s right-of-way - a plausible, previously unknown answer to how and when the modern channel came to exist, worth its own future primary-source pull. NEW LEAD, not yet pursued: several alignment cross-references on this sheet point to “C.S. 81124” (sheets 7-11), a related but numerically and evidently substantively distinct Flood Control District survey, not to be conflated with C.S. 8194 itself.

[72] NEW (v1.20). User-supplied full-resolution photographs (four sheets: 17-RW-9, 17-RW-10, 17-RW-11 Sheet 1, and 17-RW-11 Sheet 2), Los Angeles County Flood Control District right-of-way engineering series for Ballona Creek, forming a continuous corridor from the Pacific Electric Railway/Culver Blvd. area inland to the Pacific Ocean. Tier 1 primary source. CONFIRMED by this note’s own direct inspection of the supplied images (not merely cited from an AI summary): every acreage figure legible on these sheets to this note’s own reading matches, digit for digit, the partition-table figures already established from References 55, 69, and 70 (44.17, 26.14365, 26.2368, 26.16772, 26.38410, 26.29598, 26.36793, 26.2884, 26.35008, 26.4099, 26.32959, 26.38910, 26.30835 acres); direct cross-references to “D.C.C. 2722,” “C.F. 64,” and “M.R. 3-204 to 209” (all already Reference 56/69/70) appear on Sheet 17-RW-9; a

further annotation “S.C.C. 5630, C.F. 18” appears adjacent to the Agustin Cota parcel on the same sheet, tying this note’s still-open Case No. 5630 (Bernal/Bernol referee-surname question, Section 6) into this series for the first time; and a legible annotation on Sheet 17-RW-11 Sheet 2 reads “Permit to install & maintain 72” pipe & levee, 8-4-39, Del Rey Company to L.A.C.F.C.D.” - an independently confirmed date (August 4, 1939) for at least one stage of this engineering series. CAVEAT ADDED (v1.31): this entry’s “digit for digit” match claim compared RW-9 through RW-11’s figures against this note’s own prior transcription (from References 55/69/70), which this note treated at the time as “the” partition-table figures. At v1.31, a direct high-resolution comparison against CSLA-11 (Reference 56) found five of thirteen comparable figures differ from that same prior transcription, in some cases substantially. This does not withdraw the finding above - RW-9 through RW-11 do match the specific figures this note had on record - but that record should now be understood as one copy’s figures among several non-identical copies, not as an independently-verified authoritative set. The docket for Superior Court Case No. 105740 (see Reference 71) is repeated/continued on Sheet 17-RW-9’s companion C.S. 8194 material. CAUTION, consistent with References 70-71: these are 20th-century flood-control engineering records, not a restatement of the 1858/1868-era natural creek course; per this note’s own independent review (not merely an AI summary), they show no evidence of an attempt to reconstruct or independently re-survey the historic channel, and should be used only to document cadastral continuity and right-of-way history, not the historic creek’s course. NOT CONFIRMED, flagged rather than adopted: an AI review pass proposed specific dates (“1935 and 1968”) for this series, a distinct second condemnation case number (“Case No. 105743,” separate from Reference 71’s Case No. 105740), a “C.F. 54” annotation on Sheet 17-RW-11 Sheet 2 distinct from the already-established “C.F. 64,” and a detailed table of divergent acreage readings (variously transcribed with leading digits 25, 26, or 28 for what should be the same strips) across the four sheets. This note’s own direct inspection could not locate the “C.F. 54” annotation or confirm the proposed dates as stated; a second litigation- style annotation block does appear to exist near the “204 to 209” marker with its own distinct dates (1927, 1939, 1942), consistent with a second case existing, but no case number was legible enough in this note’s own inspection to confirm “105743” specifically. None of these four items is adopted into this note’s findings pending a higher- resolution crop read directly, by a human or by direct AI image inspection rather than image-to-text extraction alone.

[73] NEW (v1.24). User-supplied full-resolution photographs (three images), the Los Angeles Superior/District Court’s own master map register - a bound internal index, organized by case number, of maps filed in each case, distinct from any later finding aid, catalog, or recorder’s index. NAMED, informally (v1.25), the “Rosetta Stone” of this document family: not because it is written in multiple languages, but because it is the one source in this note’s entire record that translates between otherwise mutually unintelligible institutional naming systems - the only document found that states, in one place, which case number a given C.F. entry belongs to. Tier 1 primary source, and the most authoritative source in this note for what “C.F.” numbers actually designate, since it is the originating institution’s own working register rather than a later library, archive, or county description of it. Two entries directly resolve this note’s C.F. 16/C.F. 64 question: “965. Young - vs. - Machado. Partition Map of Ro Ballona. (Also notes in regard to same.)” is entry “16”; “2722. Machado vs Machado. Partition Map. La Ballona Ro.” is entry “64.” This confirms C.F. 16 = Case No. 965 (the 1868 partition, Reference

55) and C.F. 64 = Case No. 2722 (the 1876 partition, References 56/69/70) - two different index entries for two different cases, not two labels for one document. CORRECTS Reference 70 and the corresponding Section 9 entry at v1.21, both of which stated that C.F. 16 and C.F. 64 referred to the same instrument. The third image (this register's own front index page) shows the volume's overall structure - separate map registers for Probate, District, County, Superior, and New Probate courts, plus a note that "In 1880 the District Court of the State of California was abolished and all cases were transferred to the Superior Court, retaining their original case numbers" - directly explaining why the same case numbers (965, 2722) persist across what were, at different points, two different courts. OPEN ITEM: this register confirms C.F. 16 belongs to Case No. 965, but this note does not yet have a Book/Miscellaneous Records or Maps recorded-copy citation for C.F. 16 analogous to Reference 70's M.R. 3-204-209 for C.F. 64 - whether the 1868 map was ever separately recorded at the County Recorder's office, and under what volume and page, remains unconfirmed. LEFT FOR FUTURE RESEARCH (v1.35): this note's own in-person archival recovery has reached its intended scope; this specific, answerable question - a targeted search of the Recorder's Miscellaneous Maps and Miscellaneous Records indices for a C.F. 16/Case No. 965 recorded copy - is recorded here precisely enough for a future researcher to pursue directly, rather than as this note's own pending task. RESOLVED (v1.42), UPGRADED TO TWO-INDEPENDENT-READING TIER FOR THE CORE CITATION, ONE SUBSTRING STILL SINGLE-SOURCED (v1.45): Perplexity Computer, tasked specifically with re-pulling this citation rather than relying on this note's own prior paraphrase, independently retrieved LA City Bureau of Engineering ZIMAS sheet 102B157 and reported it reads, verbatim, "D C C 965 · C F 16 · MAPS 5762 & 5763 · (PAT 1-309/310)" - a live, current parcel-level cross-reference giving the recorded-copy citation this item has sought since early versions of this memo. A second, independent pull at v1.45, made without reference to the first-round transcription, matches the core string exactly, character for character: "D C C 965 · C F 16 · MAPS 5762 & 5763." This core citation - which is the substance of what this open item sought - is therefore now recorded at this note's two-independent-reading tier. NOT YET AT THE SAME TIER: the "(PAT 1-309/310)" parenthetical was present in the first-round reading but Perplexity Computer's second-round pull, working from an OCR-derived search-tool snippet rather than the PDF image directly, could not clearly reproduce that specific substring and flagged it as weaker evidence on that v1.45 pass. This note treats the "(PAT 1-309/310)" portion as still single-reviewer-sourced and records the distinction explicitly rather than letting the stronger confirmation on the core string imply an equally strong confirmation on the whole citation string. NEW CROSS-REFERENCE, v1.45: the same reviewer's second pull also found this citation cross-referenced on the adjacent ZIMAS sheet 102B161, as "(D C C 965 · C F 16)" tied to a 246.03065-acre parcel - a second, independent sheet corroborating the core citation, not yet incorporated into this note's own acreage cross-checks and logged here as a next-step lead rather than a finding in itself. The same sheet also independently corroborates this note's existing "17-77-79" reading for the separate Case No. 5630/C.F. 78 citation (Reference 73), which strengthens confidence in the sheet's general reliability without itself confirming the new C.F. 16 figure. "(PAT 1-309/310)" IDENTIFIED, REFRAMED, NOT RESOLVED (v1.48): the requester located and retrieved the actual document this citation points to - LADPW Patents Book 1, pages 309-310, now Reference 76 - and it is Henry Hancock's original 1858 perimeter survey and 1873 federal patent for the whole rancho, a different and earlier instrument than the 1868 Case No. 965 partition this open item has sought a recorded-copy citation for. This note's prior framing - that "(PAT 1-309/310)" was a weaker-confirmed

piece of the same C.F. 16 citation, awaiting a second reviewer read to strengthen it - is corrected: direct retrieval shows it was never going to resolve to that citation regardless of how many independent reads confirmed the string, because it is a citation to a separate document, appearing on the same ZIMAS sheet because that sheet lists the parcel's full survey lineage rather than only its most recent instrument. Perplexity Computer's OCR-based uncertainty about this specific substring accordingly no longer needs a third confirming read to resolve - not because the substring is now confirmed as part of the C.F. 16 citation, but because it was never that citation in the first place. THE ORIGINAL OPEN ITEM REMAINS OPEN: this note does not yet have a Book/Miscellaneous Records or Maps recorded-copy citation specifically for the 1868 Case No. 965 partition map (as distinct from the 1858/1873 Hancock patent, now Reference 76) - exactly the same state as before "(PAT 1-309/310)" was first read at v1.42, now understood more precisely rather than resolved. See Reference 76 for the Hancock-patent finding this retrieval did produce, including its separate, valuable closure of the v1.12 acreage-attribution question in Section 1. TRANSCRIPTION SEPARATELY UPGRADED TO TWO-INDEPENDENT-READING TIER (v1.49): a third-round Perplexity Computer pull, this time reading the ZIMAS PDF's own text layer directly rather than a search-tool OCR snippet, confirms "(PAT 1-309/310)" is genuinely present and legible on the sheet, appearing at least twice in the fuller citation grouping "D C C 965 · C F 16 · MAP 5762 & 5763 (PAT 1-309/310)," alongside a shorter form without the parenthetical and a separate compressed cross-reference tag elsewhere on the same sheet. This confirms the string was correctly transcribed all along and upgrades that transcription to this note's two-independent-reading tier. This is a narrower finding than it may first appear, and this note is deliberate about not letting it be read as more: it confirms what the ZIMAS sheet says, which was never in serious doubt after the second pull matched the first almost exactly - it does not, and could not, speak to what "(PAT 1-309/310)" refers to, which is a question about an external document, not about the sheet's own text. That question was answered separately, by the requester's direct retrieval of Reference 76, not by any reading of ZIMAS however many times repeated. The two findings are complementary, not duplicative: the sheet's citation is now confirmed accurately transcribed, and that citation is now known to point to a different document than the one this open item seeks. THE ORIGINAL OPEN ITEM STILL REMAINS OPEN on exactly the same terms as stated above. The requester's own direct confirmation against the ZIMAS viewer, specifically of what the C.F. 16 citation itself is actually recorded against, would still close the original item cleanly. See Reference 73 for the citation itself. BROADER FINDING, worth stating plainly: none of this note's institutional sources cross-reference each other by name. This court register does not mention "M.R. 3-204-209." LMU's own CSLA-11 catalog record does not mention "C.F. 64," "C.F. 16," or the recorder's M.R. citation. The Huntington's own catalog metadata does not mention any of the other labels either. Each institution's system is internally consistent and complete on its own terms, and none of them were built to reference the others. Reconciling the identifiers required direct, in-person, cross-institutional inquiry - this note's own search-based and AI-assisted attempts, however careful, could not have closed this question from any single system's metadata alone, because the connecting information does not exist in any one place to be found.

[74] NEW (v1.36), RETIRED AND MERGED (v1.37). This entry originally catalogued a separately-recovered "Lot 5" map as a distinct instrument, with a major open question about its relationship to Reference 53. That question is now resolved: this is the same physical map family as Reference 53 (Los

Angeles County Department of Public Works, Miscellaneous Maps Book 17, pages 77-79), confirmed by the requester's subsequent recovery of the full three-page county PDF set and direct photographs of the bound original. This entry's content - the Lot 5 geometry, the heirs panel, the recording endorsement, and the spelling and genealogical flags - is consolidated into Reference 53 rather than duplicated here; see Reference 53 for the current, merged account. This entry is left in place per this note's standing no-silent-edits convention, rather than deleted and its number reused, so that the v1.36 record of how this instrument was first encountered remains intact. Reference numbering is not renumbered to close the gap this retirement would otherwise suggest; "74" continues to denote this (now-merged) entry rather than being reassigned.

[75] NEW (v1.41). Thomas L. McMahon, "The Seed Crystal: Why Some AI Projects Deserve to Outlive the Session," first publicly disclosed August 5, 2026, published to the Internet Archive August 6, 2026, https://archive.org/details/the-seed-crystal-ia (Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International). This note's author's own essay, cited here for the argument invoked directly in the Closing Reflection: that some AI-assisted undertakings are projects rather than disposable exchanges, and that a properly constructed document can hand off accumulated evidence, reasoning, corrections, and open questions to a different AI system without relying on memory. This memorandum's own correction-forward version history and its Triple-AI Recursive Consensus Review handoff practice, both used throughout this document independently of this citation, are offered as that essay's thesis demonstrated in practice - see Closing Reflection.

[76] NEW (v1.48). LA County Department of Public Works Land Records, "Plat of the Ballona Rancho Finally Confirmed to Augustin Machado et al.," Patents Book 1, pages 309-310 (P-1-309/P-1-310) - Henry Hancock's original 1858 perimeter survey of the whole rancho, surveyed under orders of the U.S. Surveyor General, "Containing 13919 90/100 acres," plat approved by J.W. Mandeville (U.S. Surv. Genl., Cala.), certified by I.R. Hardenbergh (U.S. Surv. Genl., Cala.) as a full, true and correct copy of the original plat on file, approved December 8, 1873 by Willis Drummond (Commissioner of the General Land Office), and recorded February 16, 1874 at 10:30 a.m. at the request of E.F. Kysor. Tier 1 primary source, user-supplied PDF, retrieved directly from the LADPW Land Recorder website. This is Hancock's own 1858 survey documentation itself - not a copy of, and not related to, the 1868 Young v. Machado (Case No. 965) partition instrument this note has separately sought a recorded-copy citation for since early versions of this memo (see Section 6, Section 3a, Reference 73). ACREAGE FIGURE HUMAN-CONFIRMED: the requester visually confirmed "13,919 90/100 acres" directly against the retrieved document, the highest tier of confirmation this note records. This CLOSES the acreage-attribution question left open at v1.12 (Section 1): that entry held that the "13919.90 acres" figure carried on the 1868 partition map's own title block is explicitly Hancock's 1858 perimeter-survey figure, not an independent 1868 measurement, and stated this would be "fully closed by locating Hancock's own 1858 survey documentation to confirm 13919.90 is in fact his figure." That documentation is this reference, and it confirms the figure exactly. See Section 1 for the corresponding update. IDENTIFIES THE ZIMAS "(PAT 1-309/310)" CITATION: the corner stamps on this document ("P-1-309," "P-1-310") match the parenthetical citation on ZIMAS sheet 102B157 exactly, which this note had provisionally treated (v1.42-v1.45) as part of the C.F. 16/Case No. 965 recorded-copy citation, at single-reviewer confirmation tier for

that specific substring. Direct retrieval of the actual cited document establishes that this identification was mistaken in framing, though not in the underlying transcription: “(PAT 1-309/310)” is a separate citation, on the same cadastral sheet, to this different and earlier patent instrument - not a stronger or weaker reading of the same C.F. 16 citation. See Section 3a for the correction. This does not resolve the C.F. 16/Case No. 965 recorded-copy question, which remains exactly as open as before this reference was added.